The Trinity College Historical Society

1892-1941

NANNIE M. TILLEY

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THE TRINITY COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1892-1941

By NANNIE M. TILLEY

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To

ROBERT LEE FLOWERS

Who shared in the founding of the Trinity College Historical Society and who since that time has retained a deep interest in its work and its growth

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Preface

The suggestion that the approaching fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Trinity College Historical Society was an appropriate time for the appearance of a history of the Society originated in a discussion engaged in by Miss Nora Chaffin, Dr. William B. Hamilton, and Professor Paul H. Clyde, at the time president of the Society. This resulting study, because of its occasional nature and the dearth of official records from 1902 to 1932, has not been completed without aid from several members of the Society. Professor William T. Laprade, through knowledge derived from thirty years of membership in the organization, has supplied much material in the third section; and, when research has yielded seemingly unrelated facts, he has often clarified them. Professor Laprade, Professor Paul H. Clyde, Professor Bayrd Still, Miss Nora Chaffin, and Mr. Frank H. Colley have read the manuscript critically.

Several other members of the Society have contributed valuable assistance. Dr. Ruth Ketring Nuermberger, Mr. Marvin Rapp, Professor Ernest W. Nelson, and Mr. Arthur R. Hall have aided in efforts to complete the list of officers. Miss Allene Ramage and Miss Jane Greene have provided copies of several essential articles. Mr. Warren Goodman and Miss Louise Seabolt have aided in verifying source materials. For compiling the index in spite of the many demands upon his time, Dr. Gustave A. Nuermberger deserves especial thanks. Professor Dorothy Mackay Quynn, Dr. Arthur Ferguson, Miss Mary Wescott, and Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Boyd Hamilton have furnished indispensable aid in proofreading and revision.

Thanks are due to two nonmembers of the Society: Miss Erma Strickland for providing copies of Bassett's address of September 25,

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1897, and Mrs. G. E. Mann for preparing the final draft of the manuscript.

Professor Harvie Branscomb and Dr. John J. Lund have made it possible for the author to devote to the writing of this study time ordinarily devoted to other duties.

Finally, the gratitude of the author and of the Society is due to Mr. Henry R. Dwire, who has made possible the publication of this volume.

The author, however, is responsible for all shortcomings, but cites the brief period between the inauguration of the task and the entry of the Society into its fiftieth year as an extenuating factor. Limitations of space as well as of time have prevented more than a casual mention of that interest in the history of North Carolina which preceded the foundation of the Trinity College Historical Society.

Duke University N. M. T.
Durham, North Carolina
February 28, 1941

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THE TRINITY COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1892-1941

Introduction

THE Trinity College Historical Society was founded during a period when interest in the study of history was quickening in all parts of the United States. During the last twenty years of the nineteenth century historical writing ceased to be a branch of literature and tended to become a scientific study which could be introduced to the uninitiated only by teachers of history. This change was influenced by the work of Leopold von Ranke, the German historian, whose methods during that period were being widely disseminated in the United States. Few teachers of history were more industrious in spreading the new method of approach than Herbert B. Adams of the Johns Hopkins University; it was from him that enthusiasm for the accumulation of historical materials was brought to Trinity College, then a small Methodist institution in the hills of Randolph County, North Carolina. Before very long the institution was also influenced by the teachings of William A. Dunning of Columbia University. Of its kind the Society was something of a pioneer organization in the South and was a part of the general activity preceding the recent literary renaissance in that region.

Perhaps Adams and Dunning deserve a part of the credit for this twentieth-century renaissance of Southern letters. In explaining this literary awakening in the South, a well-known critic has recently commented on the reaction of writers of the region "when they began to work among the mythical remnants of the Old South and [got] down to facts."[1] How were these writers able to get "down to facts"? The answer may be found in numerous places. For example, the bibliography which served Elizabeth Page in the composition of *The*

[1] John Peale Bishop in *The Saturday Review of Literature,* July 22, 1939.

Tree of Liberty can, in a surprisingly large measure, be traced to the work of the Hopkins and Columbia professors. Stories told to Laura Krey when she was a child were not incorporated into one of her novels concerning the South until their general authenticity was checked against the work of one of Dunning's students. It is, therefore, a matter worthy of emphasis in the history of the development of the Trinity College Historical Society that its foundation, in point of time, marks the beginning of a new era for historical scholarship in the Southern region.

Not only was the Society a pioneer organization of its kind in its area; but, unlike most Southern societies of a similar nature, it has continued to function since its foundation. Seemingly its vigor has not been impaired by the numerous changes through which the small college passed during the fifty years of the life of the Society. Undoubtedly its continuation has been due in part to students who, as members, seldom failed to enter into the activities of the organization with enthusiasm. But the life of the Society has been more dependent on faculty leadership, and it is indeed fortunate that a capable leader was never lacking. Shortly after organizing the Society, Stephen B. Weeks left the College, but the breach was almost immediately filled by John Spencer Bassett. After Bassett had served the organization for twelve years, he accepted an appointment at Smith College. His work was taken over by William Kenneth Boyd, who then began a period of service which was to last for thirty-two years.

STEPHEN BEAUREGARD WEEKS

I

THE FOUNDING of the Society may be traced indirectly at least to the work of Leopold von Ranke at the University of Berlin. There, as early as 1837, von Ranke applied to historical study the seminary method, which he had acquired from the study of philology. By 1887 every professor of history in the German universities was either the direct or indirect product of the von Ranke school.[1] At the University of Heidelberg, an American, Herbert Baxter Adams, was schooled in the scientific approach to historical study by Professor Johann K. Bluntschli. Adams returned to the United States in 1876 as a Fellow in History at the Johns Hopkins University. Other American students had returned with the same training,[2] but it was Adams who was destined to transplant the methods of von Ranke to America, where they influenced two young men prominent in the foundation and development of the Trinity College Historical Society.

These men were Stephen Beauregard Weeks and John Spencer Bassett. Weeks studied at the Johns Hopkins under the tutelage of Adams from 1888 to 1891,[3] and Bassett, also a North Carolinian, had a similar opportunity from 1891 to 1894.[4] Although Weeks founded the Society, his part in its development was of short duration in comparison with that of Bassett. Indeed, Bassett may not have been the most influential personality connected with the development of the

[1] Herbert B. Adams, *Seminary Libraries and University Extension* (The Johns Hopkins University *Studies in Historical and Political Science,* Fifth Series, Baltimore, 1887), XI, 7-8.

[2] Herbert B. Adams: *Tributes of Friends* (The Johns Hopkins University *Studies in Historical and Political Science,* Extra, Baltimore, 1902), XXIII, 12-15.

[3] A. R. Newsome, "Stephen Beauregard Weeks," *Dictionary of American Biography,* XIX, 603-604.

[4] W. K. Boyd, "John Spencer Bassett," *Dictionary of American Biography,* II, 38-39.

Society; for it was due in large measure perhaps to the energy and loyalty of one of Bassett's most brilliant students that the organization functions today. That student, William Kenneth Boyd, did not reach the campus of Trinity College until the fall of 1895, when he entered as a member of the junior class,[5] but he evidently became an enthusiastic member of the Society at once, since he was elected to the office of corresponding secretary September 26, 1896.[6] From his arrival on the campus of Trinity College until his death, January 19, 1938, Boyd's name appeared almost constantly either in the list of officers of the Trinity College Historical Society or as a contributor to the publications of the Society. Ultimately graduate study at Columbia University brought Boyd, too, in touch with German influence. One of his most stimulating teachers was William Archibald Dunning, who, for a time, had been a student at the University of Berlin.[7] There is no way to measure so subjective a factor as the influence of the German historians who transmitted von Ranke's theories through Adams and Dunning to Weeks, Bassett, and Boyd; but they did exert a significant influence on the origin and development of the Society.[8]

Likewise there appears to be no way to gauge the influence of Adams and Dunning on the men who were to direct the fortunes

[5] *In Memoriam: William Kenneth Boyd* (Trinity College Historical Society *Papers*, Durham, 1938), Series XXII, p. 5.

[6] Minutes of the Trinity College Historical Society, 1892-1901, pp. 44-46 (MS in Duke University Library); cited hereinafter as: Minutes. See also *Trinity Archive*, March, 1902, p. 366.

[7] *In Memoriam: William Kenneth Boyd*, pp. 5-6; J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, "William Archibald Dunning," *Dictionary of American Biography*, V, 523; Charles Edward Merriam, "William Archibald Dunning," *American Masters of Social Science*, ed. Howard W. Odum (New York, 1927), p. 134.

[8] Note a portion of John Martin Vincent's article on Adams in *American Masters of Social Science*, pp. 108-112. Yet, it has been suggested that possibly "the orthodox account of the dominant influence of German scholarship in America during this period may need revision." See W. Stull Holt (ed.), *Historical Scholarship in the United States, 1876-1901: As Revealed in the Correspondence of Herbert B. Adams* (The Johns Hopkins University *Studies in Historical and Political Science*, Baltimore, 1938), Series LVI, No. 4, p. 11.

of the Trinity College Historical Society; both men were known as teachers of the highest type, inspiring, stimulating, and vigorous.[9] Weeks wrote of the inspiration and encouragement which he received from "'Herbert B. Adams, of the Johns Hopkins.'"[10] According to Bassett's statement, Adams was of inestimable help to him. Writing in 1902 to Professor John Martin Vincent in regard to a memorial meeting for Adams, Bassett paid tribute to his major professor:

I wish very much that I could be with you. If any man ought to do honor to the memory of Dr. Adams it is I. No man was helped by him more than I. To none did his interest do more good. I had very definite notions that I wanted to do something when I went to Hopkins; but I was at sea. He taught me how to do the thing at hand and to keep on doing it. I feel that this has been of the greatest help to me. His warm interest in me after I left the university meant as much as any thing else he did for me. I feel constantly the need of him.[11]

Another factor of great importance in the foundation of the Society is to be found in the energy and ability of John Franklin Crowell, President of Trinity College from 1887 to 1894. In his first report (1887) to the Methodist Conference of North Carolina, the body which controlled the College, Crowell stated that a "Seminary of History" would be opened and that advanced students would be admitted. "This," he wrote, "is the beginning of what will make Trinity College a center of sound historical scholarship." He suggested also that

[9] Holt (ed.), *Historical Scholarship in the United States, 1876-1901: As Revealed in the Correspondence of Herbert B. Adams,* p. 18; *Herbert B. Adams: Tributes of Friends,* pp. 45, 61; Michael Kraus, *A History of American History* (New York, 1937), pp. 312-313, 534, 538-540; J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton, "William Archibald Dunning," *Dictionary of American Biography,* V, 523-524; Vincent, "Herbert B. Adams," *American Masters of Social Science,* pp. 125-127; and Charles Edward Merriam, "William Archibald Dunning," *loc. cit.,* pp. 138-145.

[10] Thomas M. Pittman, "Stephen Beauregard Weeks," *Biographical History of North Carolina,* ed. Samuel A. Ashe (8 vols.; Greensboro, N. C., 1905-1908), V, 436.

[11] J. S. Bassett to J. M. Vincent, Durham, N. C., Jan. 27, 1902 (photostatic copy from the Herbert Baxter Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

any liberal-minded person who might donate five hundred dollars or less for the purchase of original source materials would thereby furnish the College a means for becoming equal to any collegiate school of history in the United States. Crowell personally "assumed the chair of History and Constitutional and International law" at Trinity College in 1887, a circumstance indicative of his exceptional interest in history.[12] Although the new president made many notable improvements in the small denominational college, he appears to have been unable to carry out his program concerning the history department before 1890. At any rate, the first announcement of the establishment of a separate department of history, and political and social science appeared in the catalogue for the academic year 1890-91.[13] Professor Robert Lee Flowers, one of the organizers of the group, when sketching the history of the Trinity College Historical Society in 1902, declared that during Crowell's administration, there was "a great awakening in all departments of educational work in the State." He added that "The first distinct Chair of History established at any Southern Educational Institution was at Trinity, when Dr. Stephen B. Weeks was elected to the Chair of History."[14] It was Crowell who established the history department in Trinity College, and it was Crowell who chose Weeks to develop the newly organized department according to the seminary method.

Weeks, fresh from the Johns Hopkins University, reached Trinity College, at that time located in Randolph County, North Carolina, in September, 1891. Prior to his study at the Johns Hopkins, where he gained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (1891), Weeks had received three degrees from the University of North Carolina, Bachelor

[12] *North Carolina Christian Advocate,* Dec. 21, 1887. Crowell's assumption of the Chair of History and Constitutional and International Law is recorded in the manuscript Journal of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1886-89, p. 112 (Library of Duke University).

[13] *Trinity College: Catalogue for Session of 1890-91* [Durham, 1892], p. 85.

[14] *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, p. 363.

of Arts (1886), Master of Arts (1887), and Doctor of Philosophy in English, German, and Latin (1888). His interest in the history of North Carolina had already led to three studies, one published in 1887 and two in 1891.[15] When he reached Trinity College, then a small and struggling institution with poor facilities, it is not surprising that Weeks immediately laid plans for improving the library. Writing in the college paper of February, 1892, less than six months after his arrival, he declared:

> We need especially books on history, and most of all do we need the materials for history. Trinity has many friends and well-wishers throughout this fair Commonwealth; there are many who will welcome any step looking toward setting the past history of our section in its true relations before the world; constant are the expressions of desire for a scholarly history of our State; to all such friends we appeal to-day and beg their patriotic assistance in getting together here the sources of history for the use of students who desire to do original work in that field. We have such students at present, but they are cramped and harassed by a lack of materials. We wish to devote ourselves to original work in the field of Southern history. We have a wide field at our very doors, unexploited, and waiting for us to step in and take possession.[16]

In the same article Weeks urged that collectors arise and work with the zeal of a Poggio or a Nicholas V of the Italian Renaissance period. He also quoted from letters written to him by Frederick

[15] A. R. Newsome, "Stephen Beauregard Weeks," *Dictionary of American Biography,* XIX, 603; Thomas M. Pittman, "Stephen Beauregard Weeks," *Biographical History of North Carolina,* V, 436-437; letter of Stephen B. Weeks to H. B. Adams, Trinity College, N. C., Sept. 12, 1891 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

[16] *Trinity Archive,* Feb., 1892, pp. 182-183. Note also *The Weekly State Chronicle* (Raleigh), March 15, 1892, where a portion of Weeks's plea was quoted and the entire idea championed by the editor, Josephus Daniels. This statement by Weeks was undoubtedly a reflection of the ideas of Herbert Baxter Adams. See Kraus, *A History of American History,* p. 534. In a letter to H. B. Adams, Trinity College, N. C., Oct. 10, 1891, Weeks complained that "the library is small" (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

Jackson Turner and James Bryce wherein both applauded the idea of investigating historical, social, economic, and constitutional problems of the South. In conclusion Weeks described the types of materials which he deemed necessary for use in studying Southern history. This goal, outlined in 1892, might serve at the present moment as a general description of the George Washington Flowers Collection of Southern materials in the Library of Duke University.[17]

Meanwhile, Weeks began to translate words into action. In barely two months after the appearance of his call for the collection of historical materials, appropriately entitled "The Renaissance: A Plea for the Trinity College Library," he had organized the Trinity College Historical Society at a called meeting held April 4, 1892. The purpose of the Society, as written in the constitution, bore a strong resemblance to Weeks's previous call for the collection of materials on Southern history.[18] According to the editor of the *Trinity Archive* for May, 1892, the organization meeting was enthusiastic and "half a hundred boys" had volunteered to help attain the purpose of the Society. "With Dr. Weeks, one of the best students of history in the South, to direct the operations," he continued, "why cannot Trinity be made the historical centre of the South Atlantic States?"[19]

The student editor did not err in describing the first meeting as a very enthusiastic one. Prior to April 4, 1892, Weeks had succeeded in securing the interest of four members of the faculty, Robert Lee Flowers, James M. Bandy, B. C. Hinde, and B. B. Nicholson. Each

[17] *Trinity Archive,* Feb., 1892, pp. 181-185. For a description of the George Washington Flowers Collection of Southern materials at Duke University see *In Memoriam: William Kenneth Boyd,* pp. 17-69.

[18] Minutes, pp. 1-3. Note the quotation of the constitution below, pp. 12-14.

[19] P. 343. The actual number of students who affiliated themselves with the Society on April 4, 1892, was forty-seven. There were, in addition, four faculty members besides Weeks and President Crowell, thus making a total of fifty-three charter members. See Minutes, pp. 1-3; Trinity College, *Catalogue of Session, 1890-'91* (Durham [1892]), pp. 9-15 and *Catalogue and Announcements for the Year, 1892-93* ([Durham,] 1893), pp. 8-16.

of these men, as well as Weeks "and others," contributed both by word and deed to the formal organization of the Trinity College Historical Society. Upon the recommendation of Weeks, the following officers were elected:

President, Stonewall Jackson Durham
Vice-President, Ernest Taylor Bynum
Recording Secretary and Treasurer, Isaac Erwin Avery
Corresponding Secretary, Stephen Beauregard Weeks
Librarian, Francis Cicero McDowell

These officers with President John Franklin Crowell and Jesse Armon Baldwin constituted the executive committee. A constitution for the Society was submitted by Weeks, although it was not adopted until a subsequent meeting. With the officers elected, "a call for members was . . . made," to which forty-seven students and six faculty members responded. Thereupon it was decided to meet "on the 4th Saturday night in every month" and to pay an annual fee of twenty-five cents a member. With that the group of pioneering history students adjourned.[20]

The first regular meeting failed to reveal the same enthusiasm despite careful preparation on the part of the executive committee. This committee met April 29, 1892, and outlined a program; Weeks himself was to read a paper on "The Commission of Daniel Akehurst, a Secretary of the Province of N. C.," and Ernest Taylor Bynum one on "The Second Decade of the History of N. C." It was also decided "that the Society ask Professor Nicholson to write a paper on 'The Judges of the Supreme Court in N. C.'" When the day arrived for this first meeting, April 30, 1892, "only a few members were present," and it was decided to adjourn until May 18, 1892. Perhaps the poor attendance was due to the choice of Saturday night as a time for meeting; at any rate, the constitution adopted on May 18, 1892, set the

[20] Minutes, pp. 1-9; see also Raleigh *News and Observer*, April 6, 1892, for an account of the organization of the Society.

last Wednesday in each month as the scheduled time for meetings rather than the fourth Saturday night as first proposed.[21]

The second regular meeting, held May 18, 1892, was marked not only by a successful program but also by the election to active membership of Dr. Richard Dillard, an antiquarian of Edenton, North Carolina, and by the adoption of a constitution. The election of Dr. Dillard to membership, undoubtedly proposed by Weeks, marked the entry of the Trinity College Historical Society into a wider sphere than that of an ordinary campus organization. Dillard had already achieved especial note in the preservation of local history in eastern North Carolina, and he later became a prominent figure in the Roanoke Colony Memorial Association.[22] In both activities he was destined to be associated with John Spencer Bassett. Incidents of this type suggest that it was in Weeks's mind to make the Trinity College Historical Society an important factor in the cultural life of North Carolina. In fact, he laid more than one foundation stone which enabled Bassett to spread the influence of the Society.

The constitution of the Society[23] reveals Weeks's effort to create better library facilities and his desire to make the organization felt in the State:

I. Name and Objects

This Association shall be known as the Historical Society of Trinity College, N. C. The object of the Society shall be to collect, arrange and

[21] It may also be worthy of note that the executive committee granted fifty cents, the first appropriation from the treasury, to the secretary for the purchase of a notebook, presumably to be used for recording the minutes. See Minutes, pp. 3-4, for a record of the meeting of the executive committee and for the poor attendance on April 30, 1892 (p. 9).

[22] For a sketch of Dillard see *History of North Carolina: North Carolina Biography* (Chicago, 1919), V, 245-247. The record of the second regular meeting is taken from Minutes, p. 9.

[23] This first constitution was replaced by another, which was burned in 1911. In 1912 the Society had no constitution, and apparently is without one at present. See *The Chanticleer* (Published by the organizations of Trinity College, Durham, N. C.: Richmond, Va., 1912), I, 172, and *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 21, 1923.

preserve a library of books, pamphlets, maps, charts, manuscripts, papers, paintings, statuary and other materials illustrative of the history of North Carolina and of the South; rescue as far as possible from forgetfulness the names and deeds of our first settlers; to encourage original work in the field of Southern history and to promote the study of the same by means of lectures and publications.

II. Members

This society shall consist of active and corresponding members whose names may be proposed by the Executive Committee at any regular or special meeting. The active members shall be connected with Trinity College or shall be citizens of North Carolina; and shall pay an annual fee of .25 cents. Corresponding members may be chosen from persons in any part of the world distinguished for their literary and scientific attainments, and known especially as friends and promoters of the study of history.

III. Officers

The officers of this society shall be chosen by ballot at the regular meeting in September of each year, and shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary and Treasurer, and a Librarian. These, together with two others chosen by the society, shall form the Executive Committee.

IV. Meetings

The meetings of the Society shall be held on the last Wednesday in each month and shall be presided over by the president, or in his absence by the Vice-President, or in their absence by any member chosen *pro tempore*.

V. Duties of Officers

1. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Society and shall give notice of the meetings of the Society.

2. The Recording Secretary shall preserve a full and correct record of the proceedings of all meetings of the society and Executive Committee, to be entered on his book in chronological order. In his capacity as Treasurer he shall receive and have charge of all dues and donations and all funds whatsoever, and shall pay out such sums as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct.

3. The Librarian shall have charge of the books, manuscripts and other collections of the society. He shall keep a catalogue of the same, together with all donations made during his official time—in case of donations he shall specify in his record the names of the books, manuscript or article donated, with the name of the donor and date of the gift, and shall acknowledge the receipt of the same to the donor.

VI. Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of persons provided for in Art. III of this Constitution. They shall meet as often as a majority of them may deem necessary. They shall direct and supervise the financial and business concerns of the Society; oversee the Library; procure additions for the same, and provide a program for the regular monthly meetings.

VII. Amendments.

This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the society: *provided* that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the Executive Committee previous to the time of writing [*sic*].

VIII. Order of Business

1. Reading and Approval of Minutes
2. Presentation of letters and other communications and action thereon.
3. Reports of Officers
4. Reports of Committees.
5. Election of Officers and filling of vacancies
6. Miscellaneous Business
7. Papers[24]

The Society was thus firmly organized by the close of Weeks's first year at Trinity College. During his second year, which marked the first year of the College in its new quarters at Durham, North Carolina, the vigor of the Society increased. Six regular meetings were held, officers were elected, and more than a dozen papers were read before the group. Nine new members gained admittance, three at the first meeting and six at the second. There was only one program of a popular nature that year, an exercise honoring Columbus in Octo-

[24] Minutes, pp. 10-12.

ber (1892). Since it was the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, this program naturally received more publicity than the others.[25] Weeks, it could be said, had been remarkably successful in inspiring students with a zeal for his subject.

Certain manifestations pointed to the high regard with which the Society was received. "It [the Trinity College Historical Society] is to Trinity College what the Historical Seminary is to the Johns Hopkins, a common meeting-place for the exchange of ideas," wrote the editor of the *Trinity Archive* in June, 1892. The Society was extolled by Isaac Erwin Avery, an officer of the group, as being superior to the classroom for demonstrating the technique of historical method and composition.[26] So general was interest in the newly formed Society that its activities received especial mention in the College catalogue for 1892 and 1893. In fact, the item from the catalogue describing the program of the group during the scholastic year of 1892-93 indicates that the Trinity College Historical Society was regarded with pride by the administration:

> In connection with the work in history, the Historical Society of Trinity College has been organized and has attained a reputable membership. Meetings are held monthly as a rule, when new materials are exhibited, papers presented and their contents discussed. Sixteen papers have been read before the society during the past year, a list of which with their authors will be subsequently announced.[27]

A striking characteristic of these early years of the Society was the active participation of students. Stonewall Jackson Durham, a member of the senior class in 1892, was elected president at the first meeting. The vice-president, Ernest Taylor Bynum, was a senior; the secretary and treasurer, Isaac Erwin Avery, later a well-known poet

[25] This account is drawn from the Minutes, pp. 13-18. See Raleigh *News and Observer,* Oct. 21, 1892, for an account of the program on Columbus.

[26] *Trinity Archive,* June, 1892, p. 368.

[27] *Catalogue and Announcements for the Year 1892-93,* pp. 77-78.

in North Carolina, and the librarian, Francis Cicero McDowell, were sophomores.[28] Only one office went to a faculty member; Weeks, in reality the administrative head of the group, held the office of corresponding secretary. "The students bring the results of their work to the meeting," wrote the enthusiastic secretary and treasurer of the Society, "and these results are discussed in a free-and-easy fashion." Furthermore, he continued, many of the student members had "never before realized the *unity* of history," but had looked on the subject merely "as a mass of disconnected facts and dates to be strung on the memory in much the same fashion as one puts beads on a string."[29] A description of the work of the history department appearing in January, 1893, pictured the seminary method then in use, the classes meeting once each week for lectures and clarification of obscure points "while once a month this meeting is turned into an historical society of more general character in which the lower classmen participate."[30]

Weeks revealed his method of teaching in his annual report to the president of the College shortly after the Society was organized. He believed that the lower classes needed textbooks; the upper classes, in addition to textbooks, informal lectures, and parallel readings, should be given the task of preparing papers on assigned topics. His policy with lower classmen was to teach the great events of world history in broad outline form in order that the students might comprehend the significance of the events. The study of local history, he felt, should always follow the courses designed for giving a general view of world events. During their senior year, his students began original investigations in local history. "The student [at this point]," declared Weeks, "is taught to examine sources, compare authorities

[28] Class standing of students has been obtained from the records of the Alumni Office of Duke University and from college catalogues of the period.

[29] *Trinity Archive*, June, 1892, p. 368.

[30] *Ibid.*, Jan., 1893, p. 157.

and to draw his own conclusions."[31] The Trinity College Historical Society, according to Weeks's own account, therefore, was designed to function as an agency fully integrated with his general program of teaching. Although intended primarily for upperclassmen, others, too, were supposed to acquire enthusiasm for collecting materials and for the study of history. Weeks reported to President Crowell as follows:

> An Historical Society has been organized which has the same objects [original work in history] in view. Here the student has an opportunity to present his work in a less formal manner than in the class room. The professor has sought to awaken the interest of the student to the importance of collecting historical materials and he thinks that he has met with reasonable success.[32]

According to the constitution, one purpose of the Society was the promotion of the study of Southern history "by means of . . . publications." In line with that purpose, Weeks instituted a plan by which he hoped "to secure the publication of all the meritorious papers," thus anticipating the appearance of the *Historical Papers* of the Trinity College Historical Society, a publication which did not become a

[31] Weeks's annual report to President Crowell for the year 1891-92, dated June 6, 1892, is preserved among the Trinity College papers in the Library of Duke University. It is interesting to note Weeks's complaint that "Some of the students, especially the theologs, were found to be very deficient in Eng[lis]h." The same complaint was made of the senior whom Weeks regarded as his best student. Stephen B. Weeks to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., May 25, 1893 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). This deficiency, no doubt very serious, indicates that Weeks's program was carried out in the face of other obstacles fully as discouraging as the lack of materials.

[32] In the preceding paragraph of the report, Weeks wrote: "During the present year two theses have been presented on subjects connected with the history of North Carolina, one of the writers going to Raleigh to consult books in the State library on the subject. In the matter of original work we are exceedingly hampered by a *lack of materials*. The professor has sent out a circular making appeals for materials and with good results. It is hoped that the trustees will make provisions for binding and preserving this material and for putting the library into more usable shape as recommended in the librarian's report" (Weeks's report to President Crowell, June 6, 1892, in Trinity College papers, Duke University Library).

reality until 1897, when Bassett was serving as head of the history department. Dr. Charles G. Hill, a physician of prominence in Baltimore and a native of North Carolina, was persuaded by Weeks to give one hundred dollars to be used as annual prizes for the first and second best papers produced by members of the senior class on some phase of North Carolina history. The winners were to be chosen by a committee consisting of the professor of history in the College, the president of the College, and one other "historical student" chosen by the first two members of the committee. Requirements demanded that the subject of each paper be approved by the professor of history in Trinity College. Competing seniors were confined to those who had taken "the historical work of the three lower classes." These awards, consisting of sixty dollars for the first prize and forty for the second, were to be known as the Hill prizes in history.[33]

Weeks very promptly identified the Hill prizes with the actual work of the Society. It was announced in February, 1893, that "Original work is now being done in the institution by three members of the senior class." Robert Henry Willis was investigating "Methodism in North Carolina up to 1800"; Jesse Armon Baldwin was studying the same subject from 1800 to 1836, the latter being "the date of the organization of the North Carolina Conference." James Franklin Shinn had chosen the career of Edward Moseley, a colonial patriot and statesman.[34] Willis's paper, which he read to the Society on

[33] Accounts of the Hill prizes are to be found in the following: *Raleigh Christian Advocate,* June 29, 1892; *Trinity Archive,* Jan., 1893, pp. 156-157; Trinity College *Catalogue and Announcements for the Year 1892-93* ([Durham,] 1893), p. 81. Reference to the award was also made by Weeks in a letter to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., May 5, 1893 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). It is noteworthy that Dr. Hill, in the same year, also offered a prize to the alumnus of the University of North Carolina who should write "the best monograph on some subject connected with North Carolina history, with a preference for the one that discovers new historical material." See Raleigh *News and Observer,* Nov. 27, 1892. It might be safe to venture a guess that Weeks also instigated this move.

[34] *Trinity Archive,* Feb., 1893, p. 208.

March 29, 1893, gained a mildly laudatory sentence from the secretary of the Society: "The paper showed signs of patient research and enquiry."[35] As might have been expected in a Methodist school where materials on that church were more plentiful than on other subjects, the prizes went to the students who had investigated Methodism, first place being won by Willis and second by Baldwin. It was significant that presentation of the awards was made during the commencement exercises by John Spencer Bassett, "Fellow of History in Johns Hopkins University."[36]

Continuation of the Hill prizes for the scholastic year of 1893-94 is a further tribute to the work of Stephen B. Weeks in launching the Society securely. Although Weeks resigned his position at Trinity College in June, 1893, while Bassett still had another year's study at the Johns Hopkins, the Society continued to function, and the Hill prizes were awarded again in June, 1894. At meetings of the Society on February 22 and April 5, 1894, Eugene Clyde Brooks completed the presentation of a paper on slavery in North Carolina.[37] During commencement exercises in the same year, he was awarded the first of the Hill prizes, while John Lisbon Woodward won second place for his paper on "The Revolutionary Movement in North Carolina."[38]

[35] Minutes, p. 18.

[36] Raleigh *News and Observer,* June 10, 1893; Trinity College *Catalogue and Announcements for the Year 1892-93,* p. 81. Willis later became a Methodist minister in North Carolina, serving until his death on January 21, 1925. Baldwin, after two years of teaching, joined the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference and served as a minister until he was superannuated in 1937. (Information from the Alumni Office of Duke University.)

[37] Minutes, pp. 20-21.

[38] Raleigh *News and Observer,* June 15, 1894; undated item entitled "Prizes and Awards" in the handwriting of John Franklin Crowell among the Trinity College papers in the Duke University Library. Brooks, after graduation, became affiliated with the public schools of North Carolina, holding one position or another until 1907, when he became professor of education in Trinity College. In 1919 he became State Superintendent of Public Instruction and from 1923 until 1934 served as president of North Carolina State College. See David A. Lockmiller, *History of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering of the University of North Carolina, 1889-1939*

Apparently Dr. Hill lost interest in the project after 1894. The prize was not listed in subsequent catalogues, although facts concerning other prizes appeared in the one for the scholastic year of 1894-95.[39]

The programs of the Trinity College Historical Society from the first regular meeting until June, 1893, when Weeks left Trinity College, furnish additional proof of the intellectual vigor of the young organization. At the first regular meeting, two seniors presented papers. Stonewall Jackson Durham, the president of the Society, gave an abstract from his graduating thesis entitled "The Fundamental Constitutions," while Ernest Taylor Bynum did the same for his subject, "The Culpepper Rebellion."[40] These papers bearing on the complicated political theory of John Locke and the colonial rebellion, which could be studied best in the newly published *Colonial Records of North Carolina,*[41] were ambitious subjects for undergraduates in a small college. Two papers were read before the first meeting for the scholastic year of 1892-93,[42] a time when such organizations usually do little more than elect officers. During the same year, Weeks presented three papers, and Crowell, President of the College, read one on "Colonial Taxation." The minutes reveal, too, that seven papers were presented by students.[43] It is also worthy of note that many of these papers, as well as other historical studies by students and faculty members, were published in the college magazine.[44]

Weeks, despite his ability to create interest in the study of history,

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(Raleigh, 1939), pp. 155-188. Woodward, although licensed to practice law, became a teacher in the public schools of North Carolina, serving in that capacity apparently until his death. (Information from the Alumni Office of Duke University.)

[39] Pp. 55-56.

[40] Minutes, p. 9; *Trinity Archive,* June, 1892, p. 385.

[41] Ed. William L. Saunders (10 vols.; Raleigh, 1886-90).

[42] Minutes, p. 13; *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1892, p. 79.

[43] Minutes, pp. 13-18.

[44] Note especially the following issues of the *Trinity Archive:* May, 1892, pp. 314-319; Sept., 1892, pp. 1-8; Nov., 1892, pp. 49-56; Dec., 1892, pp. 98-103; Jan., 1893, pp. 145-154; Feb., 1893, pp. 181-185; March, 1893, pp. 232-237; April, 1893, pp. 284-287; May, 1893, pp. 330-335, 335-337.

was essentially a collector rather than a teacher. Prior to his connection with Trinity College, he had become a collector of materials relating to the history of North Carolina. In the *Trinity Archive* for September, 1892, the editor wrote: "Dr. Weeks has probably the most complete library of North Carolina history in existence. He has spent several years in this work, and is thoroughly posted in the history of our State."[45] Weeks spent his Christmas holidays busily collecting materials.[46] According to his biographer, he "surpassed all others" in collecting materials on the history of North Carolina, and he himself stated that his collection of North Carolina autographs was " 'one of the finest . . . in existence.' "[47] During the faculty quarrel with President Crowell, which led to Weeks's departure from Trinity in 1893, he sought in the following fashion to influence a trustee of the College to oppose Crowell:

> I showed him [Dr. J. R. Brooks, the trustee] all my N. C. Collections of Books & MSS. I got him very much interested in my work, he became *enthusiastic* & *then* wanted to know what I w[oul]d do next year, told him I was going to leave the State & take my N. C. library, the finest with possibly one exception [probably that of Dr. Richard Dillard] in existence, away with me, the good doctor's voice grew husky & this morning in talking with another member he completely broke down.[48]

Despite an implication in the constitution that it was an object of the Society to establish a museum, this was not done while Weeks directed the activities of the organization. Certainly, improvement of library facilities was a purpose. Yet, old books, Confederate

[45] P. 35. [46] *Trinity Archive*, Jan., 1893, p. 175.

[47] Thomas M. Pittman, "Stephen Beauregard Weeks," *Biographical History of North Carolina*, V, 438.

[48] Stephen B. Weeks to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., May 5, 1893 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). For a description of Weeks's activities as a collector see his own article on the subject: "The Weeks Collection of Caroliniana," *Literary and Historical Activities in North Carolina, 1900-1905* (Publication of the North Carolina Historical Commission; Raleigh, 1907), pp. 575-603.

bills, and "envelopes made of wall-paper . . . were shown the Society by Dr. Weeks."[49] Such items were neither presented to the Society nor accepted in its behalf, as was the case when Bassett and Boyd directed the group. It is a fact, however, that Weeks, in his brief period as founder and director, accomplished much and probably had little opportunity to build a museum.

This selfsame factor which rendered Weeks highly capable of developing enthusiasm for historical study and for the collection of historical materials tended also to render him unfit for building up a great collection for the library of Trinity College. Zest for one's own personal collection, whether it be stamps, coins, books, or bottles, usually dulls interest in making the same kind of collection for another person or institution. Weeks, however, had performed the task of a pioneer in establishing a vigorous historical society before he left Trinity College in June, 1893, as the result of differences between President Crowell and members of the faculty over failure to receive salaries.[50] Enthusiasm for the Trinity College Historical Society was, perhaps, too deeply imbedded in the student body to permit immediate death of the organization. Moreover, another able student was almost ready to assume leadership. That student, John Spencer Bassett, succeeded Weeks as a member of the faculty and guided the second phase of the development of the Society.

[49] Minutes, p. 17.

[50] Stephen B. Weeks to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., May 5 and June 10, 1893 (photostatic copies from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). See also Thomas M. Pittman, "Stephen Beauregard Weeks," *Biographical History of North Carolina,* V, 438, and A. R. Newsome, "Stephen Beauregard Weeks," *Dictionary of American Biography,* XIX, 603.

JOHN SPENCER BASSETT

II

Although the next figure of major importance in the evolution of the Society was John Spencer Bassett, the organization did not immediately fall under his guidance. At the time of Weeks's departure, Bassett was completing his graduate work. It is necessary, therefore, to trace separately the fortunes of the Society and the career of Bassett until he was ready to assume leadership.

Bassett was graduated from Trinity College in 1888, having entered the junior class in 1886; he thus appeared at the little backwoods Methodist college in time to feel for one year the impact of President Crowell's vigorous mind. During the two years following his graduation, Bassett taught in the public schools of Durham, North Carolina. For the academic year 1890-91, he returned to Trinity College to serve as principal of the high school and instructor in English. There again he renewed his contacts with Crowell, whose inspiration no doubt led him to leave Trinity College the following autumn in order to enter the graduate school of the Johns Hopkins University.[1]

Although Bassett had little opportunity for contact with Weeks, their paths did cross for a brief period in September, 1891. Weeks wrote as follows to H. B. Adams, when introducing Bassett, who expected to "be in Baltimore in a day or two":

He [Bassett] wishes to enter the Historical Department and will probably devote himself to history, political economy, and English or international law. I do not know him very well myself, but as far as I have seen him I have been very favorably impressed while his former teachers tell me

[1] W. K. Boyd, "John Spencer Bassett," *Dictionary of American Biography*, II, 38-39; *Trinity Chronicle*, Sept. 18, 1906; Trinity College *Catalogue of the Session 1890-1891* (Durham, [1891]), p. 10.

that he is a diligent and faithful student and in every way worthy of encouragement. You will find, perhaps, that he, like the rest of us, has not gone far into the subject, but he is ready and willing to learn. Give him the Church History and international law along with the graduate history.

Weeks then urged that Bassett be given "an *Honorary Scholarship,*" although he acknowledged that Bassett's status as "a first year man" might prove a handicap in a contest for that honor. Pointing to the fact that other North Carolina colleges had representatives at the Hopkins, while Trinity had none, Weeks added: "Besides, Trinity College is now directly connected with the Johns Hopkins through myself. I claim Mr. Bassett as the first fruit of my labor for the higher culture in N. C. I think he will prove himself entirely worthy of the honor and I shall be very glad if you can work him in among the six fortunate ones."[2]

Bassett failed to get an appointment until his last year, when he was fellow in history, but he pursued his work at the Johns Hopkins until he was awarded the degree of doctor of philosophy in 1894. During his stay in Baltimore, however, he maintained close connections with Trinity College. In November, 1891, he was in such intimate touch with personalities on the Trinity campus that the editor of the college magazine could describe his letters as "dilating on Johns Hopkins."[3] It will be recalled, too, that he made the presentation speech when the Hill prizes were awarded at the commencement exercises in 1893, and that during his last year at the Johns Hopkins, he "was pro-

[2] Stephen B. Weeks to H. B. Adams, Trinity College, N. C., Sept. 26, 1891 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). According to the same letter, Bassett had been elected to an ordinary scholarship at the Johns Hopkins for the previous year, 1890-91. Information furnished the writer by Professor Howard E. Cooper of the Johns Hopkins University shows that Bassett received no aid until his last year in graduate school, when he was appointed University Fellow with a stipend of $500. Reference to this fact may be found in *The Johns Hopkins University Circular,* No. 4 ([Baltimore,] 1914), p. 14.

[3] *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1891, p. 77.

fessor of history *in absentia*"[4] at Trinity. In the fall of 1893 he spent a month "lecturing to his classes in history" before returning to his studies in Baltimore.[5] There was, however, a gap of approximately one year between Weeks's departure and Bassett's assumption of the chair of history.

The intervening period, the academic year of 1893-94, might easily have marked the end of the Trinity College Historical Society had it not been for the foundation laid by Weeks and the interest and efforts of Robert Lee Flowers and Ernest Taylor Bynum. Flowers was an instructor of mathematics in Trinity College, while Bynum, who had received one year's advanced study at Johns Hopkins since his graduation at Trinity, not only "succeed[ed] Dr. S. B. Weeks" but also "fill[ed] Prof. Bassett's place."[6] That Bynum should strive to keep the Society alive and vigorous might have been expected; but, despite Flowers's aid in organizing the group, his interest and efforts could hardly have been expected in the ordinary course of events. At the first meeting of the year, held September 15, 1893, while Bassett was present, Flowers was elected president, and a program was given.[7] Although no minutes seem to exist for the first meeting of 1893-94, nor for any prior to January, 1894, the meeting held in that month, on the tenth day, had at least one characteristic in common with meetings held early in the scholastic year: new members, to the number of six, were admitted. Flowers presided over the group; and the program, judging from the titles of the papers, was excellent. This assumption

[4] *Trinity Chronicle,* Sept. 18, 1906. See also Trinity College *Catalogue and Announcements for 1893-'94* ([Durham,] 1894), p. 7, where he is listed as "Absent on leave, 1893-4. In Charge, 1894-5."

[5] *Trinity Archive,* Oct., 1893, p. 27.

[6] *Trinity Archive,* Oct., 1893, p. 4; Trinity College *Catalogue and Announcements for the Year 1893-'94,* pp. 7-8.

[7] *Trinity Archive,* Oct., 1893, p. 29. As an additional indication of Professor Flowers's interest in the Society it is worthy of note that when he was called upon at the first meeting of the succeeding year, September 14, 1894, he "in a few earnest words, urged the members to more diligence in the work . . . before the Society." See Minutes, p. 23.

is given additional weight by the fact that "The newspaper correspondents [in the Society] were requested to write a report of the meeting to their respective papers."[8]

Two other meetings were held during the scholastic year 1893-94, on February 22 and April 5. The February meeting was called to order by Bynum. George Washington Guilford and Stephen Sanders Dent were elected to the respective offices of president and secretary *pro tempore*. The same temporary officers functioned for the remainder of the year.[9] It is thus a matter of record that four meetings were held during the year preceding Bassett's arrival, an interval which he was later to describe as a time when the Society was not dead but "only sleeping."[10] Moreover, the award of the Hill prizes in 1894 was carried out in connection with programs of the Society. It should be noted, too, that the existence of the organization covered little more than one full scholastic year. The mere fact that Bassett was asked on his return if the Society would be continued is evidence that the organization had weathered the crucial year with some degree of success. In spite of these signs of life, it seems clear that the enthusiasm imparted by Weeks needed rekindling by another hand.

Bassett, coming to his post as professor of history in the fall of 1894, plunged with boundless energy into the task of invigorating the Society. In contrast with the four sessions of the previous year, eleven meetings were held in the session of 1894-95. It was Bassett's hope "that the whole student body [would] attend."[11] Thenceforth the Society remained under his guidance until the fall of 1906, a period generally characterized by increased activity. The establishment of a historical museum, the institution of a civic celebration held annually

[8] Minutes, p. 19.

[9] Minutes, pp. 20-21. In an early sketch of the Society, Bassett ignored these temporary officers and listed Professor Flowers as president for 1893-94. See *Christian Educator*, Feb., 1896.

[10] *Trinity Archive*, Jan., 1898, p. 186; *Christian Educator*, March, 1898.

[11] *Trinity Archive*, Oct., 1894, p. 48.

on February 22, the introduction of outside speakers, and the publication of *Historical Papers* were concrete signs of accomplishment. But these external evidences of activity were merely a part of more fundamental aims for building a valuable collection of source materials and for promoting freedom of thought in the South. By utilizing the innate disposition to collect, Bassett was able to obtain source materials of real and enduring value along with such items as the "Limb of [a] mulberry tree under which Cornwallis ate dinner while in North Carolina."[12] In questioning the validity of such time-honored myths in North Carolina as the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, he encouraged the development of a more critical spirit on more important matters. Thus the work of the Society also became a stimulating influence on other groups in the State.

In realizing these goals for the Society, Bassett met obstacles. President Crowell, because of smoldering prejudices among his various colleagues, a heritage of antagonism between denominational and state institutions, and because of monetary difficulties due in part to the panic of 1893, resigned his position in May 1894.[13] His departure was a distinct loss for the Society. John Carlisle Kilgo, the new president of Trinity College, though an able administrator and responsible for much of the future success of the institution, lacked some of the qualities that made Crowell an intellectual leader.[14] Moreover, almost at the outset of his administration, Kilgo became involved in a struggle with the dominant political party in North Carolina. Apparently

[12] *Christian Educator*, March, 1897. See also Minutes, p. 55. In this instance the same donation is listed as "Limb of mulberry-tree to which Gen Cornwallis tied his horse."

[13] *Trinity Archive*, April-May, 1894, p. 37; Oct., 1894, p. 47; Paul N. Garber, *John Carlisle Kilgo: President of Trinity College, 1894-1910* (Durham, 1937), pp. 21-22, 29; Luther L. Gobbel, *Church-State Relationship in Education in North Carolina since 1776* (Durham, 1938), *passim;* John Franklin Crowell, *Personal Recollections of Trinity College North Carolina, 1887-1894* (Durham, 1939), *passim.*

[14] For an account of Kilgo's election to the presidency in 1894 see Garber, *John Carlisle Kilgo: President of Trinity College, 1894-1910*, pp. 24-31.

initiated because of Kilgo's opposition to bimetallism and his acceptance of financial aid from members of the Duke family, tobacco manufacturers and Republicans, the controversy became so intense and bitter that the issues, somewhat thinly veiled, were brought into the courts. The lawsuit was continued for more than six years (1899-1905), and reached the state supreme court four times. Publicity and editorial comment were merciless.[15] Various duties occupied Bassett during this time, and in later years his preoccupation with the editing of *The South Atlantic Quarterly* was a definite factor in drawing his interest from the Society.[16] Finally, President Kilgo's enemies, seeking further means for injuring him, seized a single unfortunate sentence from one of Bassett's editorials in *The South Atlantic Quarterly,* "Stirring Up the Fires of Race Antipathy,"[17] and began an attack on Bassett. This attack, given nation-wide publicity, resulted in Bassett's resignation, which, however, was refused by the Board of Trustees in a dramatic meeting.[18] Such an atmosphere of conflict and controversy was hardly conducive to the growth and orderly development of the Trinity College Historical Society.

Nevertheless, the records of the Society show that Bassett's plans for certain specific activities and for the development of a more critical spirit were already bearing some fruit. The establishment of an his-

[15] Garber, *John Carlisle Kilgo: President of Trinity College, 1894-1910,* pp. 197-238. For a more thoughtful, but less detailed, account see Robert W. Winston, *It's a Far Cry* (New York, 1937), pp. 232-235. Opposition to Kilgo was led by the Honorable Josephus Daniels, then editor of the Raleigh *News and Observer.* For the editor's mature opinion of the so-called Kilgo affair see Josephus Daniels, *Editor in Politics* (Chapel Hill, 1941), pp. 102-119, 227, 230-233.

[16] William K. Boyd, "The Trinity College Historical Society: A Record and an Appeal," *Trinity Alumni Register,* April, 1915, p. 30.

[17] II, 297-305 (Oct., 1903).

[18] For a detailed account see Garber, *John Carlisle Kilgo: President of Trinity College, 1894-1910,* pp. 239-286. See also Daniels, *Editor in Politics,* pp. 427-438, for the changed opinion of the leader of the fight against Bassett, expressed long after the uproar over the unfortunate editorial. After paying tribute to the democratic ideals of Bassett, the former editor states that "It would be impossible to appraise truly what happened in those days without understanding the atmosphere of the period" (p. 435).

torical museum probably aroused more general interest than any other project.[19] In the fall of 1894 the first meeting was devoted to the election of officers and to inspirational speeches from Flowers and Bassett; the second meeting was postponed "On account of a Y. M. C. A. convention in progress." But, at the next meeting held October 13, 1894, a committee was appointed to promote the formation of an historical museum. At the ensuing meeting November 3, 1894, the "Museum committee reported and was continued."[20] At that same time as a student, Joseph Henry Separk of Raleigh, North Carolina, made the first donation consisting of three almanacs, a gift of decided value, as noted in the minutes of the Society: "Dr. Bassett made some pleasant comments on presenting the following to the Museum: Gales' North Carolina Almanac 1833. Turner and Hughes' North Carolina Almanac 1840. A Virginia Almanac (Title lost) 1826 donated by Mr. J. H. Separk." At the same time Bassett presented a copy of Plutarch's *Lives* (1769), once the property of James Iredell, whose autograph it contained.[21] Such was the genesis of the historical museum which, in reality, marked the beginning of a collection of source materials for Trinity College and Duke University.

[19] Bassett described the Society as "languishing" until the movement for a museum became successful. In starting the museum, Bassett worked on the principle that it was not every student who could write history or even a semblance of history; yet, everyone could collect something of interest. He described the value of the project as follows: "From the day the Museum was founded the interest in the Society sprang into new life. I am satisfied that it was the turning point in the life of the organization. We have now no trouble to get papers for our monthly meeting, and the spirit of research with which they are prepared shows that the future is very bright." See "Our Historical Problem," *First Annual Publication of the Historical Society of the North Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church (South)* (Durham, 1897), p. 37. Note also R. L. Flowers, "History of the Historical Society of Trinity College," *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, pp. 364-365.

[20] Minutes, pp. 23-26. The committee consisted of C. C. Weaver, S. E. Mercer, and E. K. McLarty.

[21] *Ibid.,* p. 26. In the *Christian Educator,* Feb., 1896, there is a sketch of the Society evidently by Bassett, who credits Separk with presenting the first gift to the museum. See also an account of the Society, largely devoted to the museum, in *Catalogue and Announcements for the Year 1894-'95,* pp. 52-53.

Enthusiasm for the new venture gradually mounted, until it reached the high level destined to continue long after Bassett's departure from Trinity College. On December 7, 1894, the museum committee reported "some progress," and during the following January "they had secured some shelves and . . . they needed glass doors for them." Thereupon it was voted to "order the glass provided the treasurer could secure the necessary funds."[22] By the end of the academic year 1894-95, a sufficient number of relics had been acquired to fill "a large case seven feet tall and four and a half feet wide."[23] Interest in the museum, however, became much more marked during the fall of 1895; doubtless many gifts had been collected during the vacation months. On January 11, 1896, the Society extended formal thanks to President Kilgo "for the gift of a room for the Historical Museum and for a case for Historical relics."[24] After March, 1896, the museum was located in the Epworth Building, where suitable space was available and visitors might view the relics with convenience.[25] When the new library was built in 1904, a special room and a fireproof vault were included for the preservation and display of the possessions of the Society.[26]

Although students and faculty members became enthusiastic sup-

[22] Minutes, pp. 27-29.

[23] *Christian Educator,* Feb., 1896.

[24] Minutes, pp. 37-39. At a meeting held two weeks later, the president appointed a committee, William I. Cranford, Joseph F. Bivins, and Bruce R. Payne, to see to the furnishings of the room for the museum.

[25] Minutes, p. 37; *Christian Educator,* March, 1896; Raleigh *News and Observer,* March 31, 1896. This room was evidently the recitation room "formerly used by Prof. Dowd." See Raleigh *News and Observer,* Jan. 14, 1896.

[26] "It is doubtful if there is another historical society in the South which is better able to receive and care for documents and manuscripts" (*Trinity Archive,* June, 1904, in a section without pagination called the "Album of Trinity College," which served as a kind of yearbook). See also R. L. Flowers, "History of the Historical Society of Trinity College," *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, p. 365, for anticipation of the new room for the museum. Bassett secured the promise of the fireproof vault on April 16, 1898 (see letter of John S. Bassett to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., April 17, 1898; photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

porters of the museum, no one excelled Professor Flowers in zeal and interest. He undoubtedly spent a considerable portion of his Christmas holidays during 1895 in searching his home county for relics. The Raleigh *News and Observer* listed his donations made at a meeting held January 11, 1896:

Professor R. L. Flowers in a happy manner presented to the society the following relics which through his efforts have recently been donated or loaned to the museum:

A handsome sword and belt worn through the recent war; loaned by Lieut. Col. G. W. Flowers of Taylorsville, N. C., also an army pistol presented by the same gentleman.

The sword carried through the recent war by Capt. R. M. Sharpe, of Alexander county, who had the reputation of being one of the best fighters in the service.

A sword used in the same war, and presented by Lieut. Jas. B. Pool, of Alexander county.

A sword used in the same war and presented by Maj. J. B. Matthewson, of the same county.

Two sword bayonettes, served out at Camp Vance and presented by Messrs. W. C. York, and D. J. Correll, of Alexander county, N. C.

A bowie knife worn in the war by Robt. Hines, of Co. G, 38th N. C. regiment. When its gallant wearer was found slain on the field the knife was at his belt. It is loaned by his sister.

Two commissions presented by J. B. Matthewson, of Alexander county.

For this spectacular array of gifts, the Society voted that "thanks be tendered to Prof. Flowers for his interest in [the] Historical Society especially Hist. Museum."[27] In February, 1896, he made other valuable donations,[28] but on September 30, 1899, he gave a very valuable gift

[27] The list of items presented by Professor Flowers on Jan. 11, 1896, is taken from the Raleigh *News and Observer*, Jan. 14, 1896. For a less polished account see Minutes, pp. 37-38; the Minutes also include "a copy of Hardin's army tactics . . . two commissions issued to officers by Gov. Vance . . . A book on Navigation belonging to P.[eter] S.[tewart] Ney" as well as the vote of thanks tendered by the Society.

[28] Minutes, p. 41; *Christian Educator*, March, 1896. Note issue of April, 1897, for other gifts.

in the form of the manuscripts of a gifted North Carolina literary figure, Edwin Wiley Fuller, who had died when quite young.[29] From 1904 until 1915, he made no less than fifty-eight donations to the Society.[30] His continuing generosity to the museum provided a nucleus which, along with donations notably from other members of his family, ultimately grew into the valuable collection of manuscripts, newspapers, pamphlets, and books, chiefly Southern materials, now preserved in the Library of Duke University.[31]

Numerous donations from students made the position of secretary no sinecure. As interest in the museum mounted, a great part of each meeting was devoted to a ceremony known as "the presentation of relics,"[32] and a strong effort was made to record each gift in the minute book.[33] The list of "relics" presented on September 26, 1896, is indicative of the enthusiastic work of the students during their summer vacations:

A badge of the veterans of the Mexican war, presented by Rev. A. McCullen of the North Carolina Conference.

A flint-lock pistol, used in the Revolution, presented through Mrs. S. S. Dent, by Mr. James Miller of Wagner, N. C.

A flint-lock pistol, of very old date, and a revolver of the "pepper-box" variety; also a primitive lamp burner, a pewter spoon mould, and some valuable old papers, presented by Mr. T. A. Mann of Fairfield.

[29] Minutes, p. 78; for other gifts in the early years see pp. 46, 56, 57, 60, 61, 78, 86. It was during this same period that Professor Flowers's steadfast devotion to the Society caused his election (in 1895) "to attend to the ringing of the bell to announce the meetings of the Society" (p. 29).

[30] Trinity College Historical Society: List of Donations, 1904-15, pp. 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 34, 41, 45, 46, 56, 67, 68, 69, 72, 74 (MS, Duke University Library).

[31] During the scholastic year of 1936-37, the writer recalls that Professor Flowers personally brought to the Manuscript Division of Duke University Library a copy of a unique sermon preached at the funeral of a Confederate soldier. In fact, the accession book of that department is generously sprinkled with records of donations made by Professor Flowers.

[32] *Christian Educator,* Feb., 1896; Minutes, *passim.*

[33] Minutes are in existence, with the exception of a few meetings, from 1892 until 1901, but thereafter a gap exists until 1932. The fire of 1911 was partly responsible for the gap.

A number of bullets from the "Crater," near Petersburg, pres[e]nted by Mr. W. H. Anderson, Wilson, N. C.

An Indian axe, presented by Mr. J. T. Stanford, of Mt. Tirzah, N. C.

An old [d]eed in the handwriting of Bishop Asbury, a Spanish milled [d]ollar of 1792, an American half cent, and a small Spanish coin, presented by Mr. J. C. Wren, of Siler City, N. C.

Specimen of iron pirites [*sic*] and some Indian arrow heads from Durham county presented by Mr. R. D. Blacknall, Durham, N. C.

A bill for 2 sh, 6d "proclamation" money, North Carolina currency, dated 1771, signed by John Harvey and Lewis De Rossett. This bill was of the issue made by Governor Tryon to pay off the troops that suppressed the Regulators.

It is possibly the only bill of North Carolina Colonial money in existence. It was presented by Mr. C. M. Muse, of Carthage, N. C.

A bundle of newspapers, by Mr. J. [H.] Southgate, Durham, N. C.

A collection of garnets and old Indian arrow heads from Wake county; also an old book, by Mr. M. H. Bledsoe, Holly Springs, N. C.

A collection of rare books, Confederate money and valuable papers, by Prof. R. L. Flowers of Trinity College, N. C.

A rare coin by Prof. Jerome Dowd of Trinity College.

A piece of stone from the corner stone of the Methodist Church in Aberdeen Scotland; also a piece of tile from the private room of Mr. Vanderbilt's mansion, by Mr. Harold Turner, of Asheville, N. C.

A piece of stone from Japan, an ivory nut from Brazil and stone from the beach at Jamestown, Va., by Miss Bessie Bassett, of Goldsboro, N. C.

Fac simile [*sic*] of the bail bond of Jefferson Davis, and stone from Chimney Rock by Rev. A. P. Tyer.

Rare American coin, presented by Mr. S. W. Sparger, Mt. Airy, N. C.

A rare book by Mr. E. C. Ivey, Rutherfordton, N. C.

A rare book by Mr. J. L. Bost, Davidson, N. C.[34]

[34] This list appeared in the Raleigh *News and Observer*, Sept. 29, 1896. Virtually the same account is contained in Minutes, pp. 44-47, although the task of recording seems to have been a painful one for the secretary. The account, as arranged for publication, apparently by Bassett, was in more polished form. The editor of the campus paper contented himself with the following account: "Many valuable relics were

As may be seen from the list cited above, much chaff was acquired, but chaff necessarily accompanies a crop of grain. In the doubtful category were such items as "a piece of jet from Whitby," "A piece of a sword fish and a Sea Spider," "Water from [a] pool of [the river] Jordan," a "Piece of old Saucer supposed to have been brought as ballast by Amadas and Barlowe having been found among stones supposed to have been thrown out by them at Ballast point near Roanoke Island," a "Stone from near Mark Hanna's residence," and "A shell from [the] Sea of Gali[l]ee."[35] In the same category but far more interesting, by virtue of subsequent years of athletic rivalry, was the donation on April 30, 1898, of the "Official score card of the game of Base Ball played between U. N. C. & Trinity to-day." Moreover, the Society not only voted that the score card be framed but also "request[ed] the Ball used in the game."[36] No imagination is needed to guess the identity of the winner. Most frequent gifts, however, were Confederate money, Mauser rifle bullets, buttons from Confederate uniforms, campaign badges, Indian relics, and souvenirs from travel.

The emphasis upon collecting, though it uncovered items largely useless for purposes of historical research, undoubtedly served to develop enthusiasm among the members of the Trinity College Historical Society. An outstanding illustration is to be found in gifts presented by Frank E. Welch, professor of Latin, Greek, and French at Trinity College from 1890 until 1893. Although away from the College when the museum was started, he caught the enthusiasm from friends on the campus and in 1897 presented "old papers and spectacles & p[ie]c[e

presented to the Historical Museum. We would be glad to give a full list did our space permit it. During the Summer the students have procured many interesting specimens. Some of the relics procured are of peculiar interest and are of great value. The historical collection is being increased very rapidly." See *Christian Educator,* Oct., 1896.

[35] Minutes, pp. 35, 40, 41, 42, 59, 64; *Christian Educator,* Sept., 1897.

[36] Minutes, p. 66. The score of the baseball game between Trinity College and the University of North Carolina was 9 to 4 in favor of Trinity. See Raleigh *News and Observer,* May 1, 1898.

of] slate from Scotland" in addition to a collection of shells sent in 1904 from the Philippine Islands.[37] So much interest was manifested in Andrew Jackson's cane, donated by the Reverend E. E. Rose on September 30, 1899, that, when returned to the museum after an absence perhaps not strictly orthodox, the following record was inscribed in the minutes, "Dr. Bassett announced that Jackson's stick had been returned."[38] Among the outstanding relics, two not only aroused general interest at the time but have since also remained the pride of the Society: they were the table and "bottle" used by Sherman and Johnston during April, 1865, in the social amenities connected with negotiations for surrender at the Bennett Place near Durham, North Carolina. This notable gift was presented by Mrs. T. D. Jones of Durham in October, 1896.[39] Dr. J. C. Brown of Durham was inspired to present "an old white fur hat which was worn by his grandfather in 1838 at the opening ceremonies of the little log school house out of which has grown Trinity College. He also loaned to the museum an old roll-book which was used in that little school-house." In making the presentation to the Society, Dr. Brown spoke of the origins and career of the College in Randolph County.[40] The students were so interested at the first meeting of 1897-98 that the secretary wrote of the new "relics": "After being inspected they were placed in the Museum where many of the New Students repaired to see the Collections."[41]

It follows, therefore, that Bassett's effort to secure interest through

[37] Minutes, p. 60; *Durham Daily Sun,* Feb. 13, 1904; *Catalogue of Trinity College, 1890-1891,* p. 9; *1892-1893,* p. 8.

[38] Minutes, pp. 78, 86.

[39] Minutes, p. 47. The table and bottle are preserved today in the library of the Woman's College of Duke University.

[40] Raleigh *News and Observer,* Oct. 9, 1895. See also *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1895, p. 49. This meeting was evidently held October 5, 1895, but the secretary recorded only one sentence for the meeting of that date; see Minutes, p. 34. The hat is also preserved in the library of the Woman's College of Duke University.

[41] Minutes, p. 60.

founding a museum was thoroughly successful. Noteworthy, too, were the practical means used for obtaining contributions of value. One indication of the manner in which such items reached the museum may be seen in the history of a donation listed in the minutes as follows: "Wooden shoe soles & Laws of N. C. for 81, 83, 85 & 87 by Mr. Newsome." With great enthusiasm for the shoe soles, but with little for the acts of the North Carolina legislature, the donor had written earlier to Bassett:

> I send by Walton [Dallas Walton Newsom, a graduate of Trinity College in 1899] a pr wood shoe soles such as was [*sic*] used in our late war, and may be of use to you, The history is this—They were made fall 1865 by James Kirkland and sold [to] Geo Arterbridge—On his way home he laid the Shoe Soles down to steal a pig, and in doing so, he in haste and hurry left them which Evidenced [*sic*] convicted him—and the pig, the owner recovered—and the shoe soles in this way was [*sic*] preserved—Arterbridge was a slave and a bad character.
>
> Walton speaks to me about some law books—I do not remember any Conversation with you about them—However—I have the Acts of 1881-83-85-87-89-91-93- and if [you] need any of them—You can have them. I will be glad to be of any help to you at any time and in any way.[42]

Along with the wooden shoe soles, four volumes were thus added to the incomplete set of acts of the state legislature.

Bassett, in publicizing the work of the museum in the College catalogue for 1894-95, asked that friends of Trinity present or lend historical relics to the museum.[43] He begged materials through the

[42] M. E. Newsom to J. S. Bassett, Littleton, N. C., June 21, 1897 (Duke University Library); Minutes, p. 60. *Christian Educator,* Sept., 1897.

[43] Pp. 52-53. One of Bassett's most astute moves for the collection of materials lay in the revival of the Historical Society of the North Carolina Methodist Conference, an organization which had scarcely functioned before. When urging the group of ministers "to get the spirit of collecting materials," he observed that no class of people was better equipped for collecting. "The members of this society scatter themselves over half of our State. They possess the confidence and love of a large number of our people." These remarks were made in 1895. See John S. Bassett, "Our Historical Problem," *First Annual Publication of the Historical Society of the North Carolina Con-*

columns of a monthly college paper, on one occasion listing items which are still being sought in order to complete serials in the library of Duke University. This plea, addressed "To the Friends of North Carolina History" and signed "J. S. Bassett, President of Trinity College Historical Society," appeared in the *Christian Educator* for March, 1898:

> Do you know where I can get any books, pamphlets, documents, letters, addresses, sketches, etc., that bear upon our State history? Do you know where there is some old library that is abandoned and which possibly contains material like these? Do you know of a library that is to be sold? If you have any of this information will you not be kind enough to write me at once? This is a matter of importance to Trinity College. We want among other things: Williamson's History of North Carolina, Brickell's Natural History of North Carolina, Garden's Anecdotes, Draper's King's Mountain and Its Heroes, Copies of the University Magazine, copies of Our Living and Our Dead, and The Land We Love—files of religious and secular newspapers and back numbers of Conference Minutes. Will you not kindly preserve this notice and from time to time put me in communication with any parties who may have what we want?

On two other occasions, February, 1896, and January, 1897, he used the same publication for the same plea, in the first instance asking that garrets be searched, and calling on persons "who have old libraries that they fear will be scattered after death" to bequeath them to the Society.

That his pleas were heeded is seen in the fact that the Society, by

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ference, Methodist Episcopal Church (South) (Durham, 1897), pp. 25-41. No doubt it was this co-operation that caused Duke University to become the repository for the records of the N. C. Methodist Episcopal Church, South. But the actual work was begun by Boyd. The secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission reported that the Trinity College Historical Society from 1908 to 1910 "in co-operation with the North Carolina Conferences of the Methodist Church is collecting the official records of that Church in North Carolina, which includes the manuscript journals of the Annual Conferences from 1838 to 1900, and records of several individual churches." See *Third Biennial Report of the North Carolina Historical Commission, December 1, 1908 to November 30, 1910* (Raleigh, 1910), p. 49.

1898, owned more than two thousand pieces of manuscript material[44] which had been acquired without cost. Among these materials were such items as an album containing the signatures of Confederates imprisoned on Johnson's Island, "Diary of a Yankee Soldier," papers relative to plantation life before the war, and some papers of W. W. Holden, Governor of North Carolina during the Reconstruction era. Perhaps the most notable acquisition was the Ethel Carr Peacock Memorial Library placed in the hands of the Society by Dr. Dred Peacock in memory of his daughter. At the time, it was considered the "best collection of North Carolina history in the State."[45] The nucleus of the extensive newspaper collection of Duke University was also established by gifts to the museum. It was through enthusiasm for the museum that publications of the College, including the *College Herald,* the *Christian Educator,* and the *Trinity Archive* were collected and preserved.[46] Among the valuable North Carolina and Virginia papers donated were the *Twin-City Daily,* the Raleigh *Christian Advocate* for 1862, the *New Bernian* for 1849 and 1850, and "a very small newspaper" presented by James A. Robinson, editor of the *Durham Sun.*[47] As an augury of future expansion, *Harper's Maga-*

[44] J. S. Bassett to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., April 17, 1898 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

[45] The album of signatures was presented by M. Jourdan; see Minutes, p. 41. For the presentation of the Federal soldier's diary by J. P. Breedlove, see *ibid.,* pp. 62-64. At the same time Mr. Breedlove gave a paper based on the diary; the paper was later published in the *Trinity Archive,* Jan., 1898, pp. 188-192. This diary was taken from the body of a dead Federal soldier by the donor's father while in search of his brother, also a Confederate soldier (information from J. P. Breedlove, Oct. 19, 1940). The Holden papers were deposited by William K. Boyd, who also presented a "paper to the Society on Holden's career." See Minutes, pp. 65, 67, 69. These papers, read in installments, were later published in the *Trinity Archive* and in the *Historical Papers* of the Society. See list of articles which appeared in the *Historical Papers* (p. 114). The Peacock Collection contained various types of material; for its acquisition by the Society see the *Trinity Archive,* June, 1904, in a section called the "Album of Trinity College."

[46] Minutes, pp. 77, 85, 72, 78. Note especially p. 78 for a record concerning the gift by W. K. Boyd of several issues of the *Trinity Archive.*

[47] *Ibid.,* pp. 80, 77, 70, 75. The "small newspaper" was published by Robinson

zine for 1866 and *Punch* for 1855 and 1856 were also presented to the museum.[48] Among other valuable items were the *Minutes of the Methodist Conference of America 1773-1813, Tables of First Post Offices* (1831), Map of Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal, three issues of the *Texas Historical Publications,* and a Confederate bond for one hundred dollars.[49]

There is some evidence that the museum did not grow rapidly during the last years of Bassett's stay at Trinity College.[50] Yet, at what seems to have been his last "presentation of relics" before his departure, one gift was noteworthy as an illustration of an important aim of the Society, an aim constantly stressed by Weeks and Bassett but not destined to reach a high stage of fruition until Boyd took the helm. This significant gift consisted of "a large collection of interesting letters . . . refer[ring] to conditions in North Carolina" from the beginning of the nineteenth century until the end of the Civil War.[51] As will be shown below, the museum was given new life under the guidance of Boyd, who, building on Bassett's foundation, stressed the acquisition of written and printed source materials more than the acquisition of "relics."

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when a printer's devil during 1870 in the office of the *Native Virginian,* edited by Dr. George W. Bagby. This small paper, *The Southern Home,* "was 2½ x 2 inches to the page and was paragraphed, a copy of which is now in Trinity college museum." See Raleigh *Morning Post,* Dec. 27, 1903.

[48] Minutes, pp. 55, 74, 87.

[49] *Ibid.,* pp. 39, 46, 68, 74, 69.

[50] *Trinity Archive,* Dec., 1902, p. 168; April, 1903, p. 364; Nov., 1904, p. 123; Feb., 1905, p. 227; April, 1905, p. 341; May, 1905, p. 404; June, 1905, p. 459; *Trinity Chronicle,* Dec. 19, 1905; Jan. 9, 16, 1906; March 6, 1906.

[51] *Trinity Chronicle,* Jan. 16, 1906. This account of donations to the Society, although long in column inches, mentions only two other gifts: "a hunting-bag and powder horn which were used by the last Revolutionary soldier of Henry county, Virginia," presented by Miss Mary R. Thomas, a student who was later to become the wife of William Preston Few, President of Trinity College and Duke University from 1910 until his death in 1940. The remaining donation was "a portion of the trunk of the tree under which the first legislative assembly of the colony of North Carolina held its meeting in 1665," presented by the Reverend A. P. Tyer, a member of the Board of Trustees from Elizabeth City, N. C.

From the standpoint of time, the establishment of a publication known as the *Historical Papers* represents the second goal achieved by the Society under Bassett's guidance. The successful launching of the *Historical Papers* in 1897 might well be placed first among the achievements of the Society, although the students were less interested in the publication than in the museum. Bassett himself did not display the same interest in the *Historical Papers* that he did in the museum; in fact, he deserted the publication of the Society for *The South Atlantic Quarterly,* which he edited from its beginning in January, 1902, until January, 1905.[52] Bassett's preoccupation with this post explains the gap in publication of the *Historical Papers* from 1900, when Series IV appeared, to 1905, the date of Series V. Since the history of this publication belongs chiefly to the period when the Society was under Boyd's guidance, and since Boyd supported the publication with great vigor while Bassett still remained at Trinity College, the account of the establishment of the *Historical Papers* will be deferred. Nevertheless, it should be borne in mind that Bassett launched the publication and that he exercised great ingenuity in doing so.[53]

Soon after the inauguration of the *Historical Papers,* the Society embarked upon a new activity. This venture, the annual civic cele-

[52] *The South Atlantic Quarterly,* IV, 91 (Jan., 1905); J. S. Bassett to J. M. Vincent, Durham, N. C., Nov. 27, 1901 (photostatic copy from the correspondence of J. M. Vincent preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). Bassett realized later that his venture with *The South Atlantic Quarterly* was an error. Note the following excerpt from one of his letters to Boyd: "When you say your prayers first after getting this letter thank the good Lord that you did not get the editorship of the Quarterly. I had not had it a year before I knew it was a bad step for me. It will take your mind off your history, it will create the impression that you are dabbling, and it will draw you into a wild goose chase that you can turn over the civilization of the South without arousing the opposition of the college" (Northampton, Mass., January 8, 1911, in correspondence in Duke University Library). It is interesting to note that the mature judgment of the Honorable Josephus Daniels concerning this attempt to "turn over the civilization of the South" coincided with Bassett's (Daniels, *Editor in Politics,* p. 435).

[53] See below, pp. 87-101.

bration, begun in 1899, was designed to extend the influence of the Society by stressing the importance of good citizenship. Washington's Birthday was selected as the time for the celebration. On the first occasion, the principal speaker was Henry G. Connor, who addressed "a large and appreciative audience" on "A Saner and Better Citizenship."[54] A speaker for February 22, 1900, was not obtained without difficulty, but finally the Reverend Thomas Franklin Marr, pastor of a Methodist church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, delivered an address on "The Destiny of the Human Race, or the Philosophy of History."[55] The third celebration, held February 22, 1902, marked also the tenth anniversary of the Society. On this occasion Professor Flowers read a paper on the "History of the Historical Society of Trinity College"; President Kilgo addressed the audience on the subject of "Christian Citizenship" and afterwards announced a gift of $100,000 from Benjamin N. Duke to the College. It was a gala occasion attended by a large audience, and with music "furnished by the Southern Conservatory Orchestra."[56]

In honor of the occasion the editor of the *Trinity Archive* surrendered all of the space of his publication to the Society, publishing four articles by members of the group.[57] In addition, the editor, Henry R.

[54] Minutes, p. 73; *Trinity Archive,* March, 1899, p. 437. Connor's address "stenographically reported by D. W. Newsom," was published in the *Trinity Archive,* June, 1899, pp. 589-605, and in the Society's *Historical Papers,* Series IV, pp. 31-47. Connor, at the time, was speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives.

[55] Minutes, pp. 79, 80; *Trinity Archive,* March, 1900, pp. 395-397. Marr's address was published under the title of "The Philosophy of Human History" in the *Trinity Archive,* April, 1900, pp. 401-412.

[56] *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, pp. 359-362. An unsuccessful attempt was made to obtain Governor Charles B. Aycock as the chief speaker. See Minutes, pp. 89, 91. No civic celebration was held in 1901. See *Trinity Archive,* March, 1901, p. 342, and March, 1902, p. 365.

[57] This issue, March, 1902, included also an account of the civic celebration taken from the Durham *Morning Herald,* Feb. 23, 1902 (pp. 359-362). Articles by members of the Society were as follows: R. L. Flowers, "History of the Historical Society of Trinity College," pp. 363-371; Fannie Carr, "The Sale of Carolina to the King by the Lords Proprietors," pp. 372-381; J. A. Best, "North Carolina in the French and Indian War," pp. 382-388; J. C. Blanchard, "North Carolina in the First National Congress," pp. 389-410.

Dwire, also a member of the Society, wrote his leading editorial on the Trinity College Historical Society.[58] All in all, the meeting of February 22, 1902, was a fitting conclusion of what appears to have been the last civic celebration held under the auspices of the Trinity College Historical Society. The celebration was not discontinued, but was taken over for a short time by the College honor society, "9019," and later by the College itself.[59] Judging from the minutes of the Society, the work connected with the celebration fell largely on Boyd's shoulders.[60] The credit for initiating the scheme, which met with the complete approbation of President Kilgo, cannot, however, be definitely placed.

Regular programs of the Society during this period were seldom so elaborate as on the occasions of the annual civic celebration. Yet, in general, the "literary duties," as the reading of papers was habitually designated in the minutes, were apparently performed with some enthusiasm. Judging from available records, which are by no means complete during the last five years of the period from 1894 until 1906, there were ninety-seven papers read before the Society while Bassett was directing its activities. Of that number, fifty-three were presented by student members, thirty-eight by faculty members, and six by visiting scholars. Moreover, the subjects were generally of such a nature that original research, certainly in that period, was necessary

[58] Mr. Dwire's editorial appeared on pp. 411-412. Evidently he was an active participant in the work of the Society. For reference to his paper, "The Peace Measures of 1861," later read before the Society, see *Trinity Archive,* April, 1903, p. 364. Mr. Dwire presented the paper on April 6, 1903.

[59] W. K. Boyd, "The Trinity College Historical Society: A Record and an Appeal," *Trinity Alumni Register,* April, 1915, p. 30. No further account of such a celebration appears among the college publications until February, 1906, when the civic celebration was "under the auspices of the 9019." See *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 27, 1906.

[60] Minutes, pp. 67-91. See also *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, pp. 366-367. Professor Flowers felt that the success of the Society, while due to a number of factors, was chiefly the work of Bassett and of "Adjunct Professor Boyd who as a student and instructor has taken great interest in the work." See *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, p. 371. It should be noted, too, that Boyd was president during each civic celebration and that Bassett was president in February, 1901, when the celebration was omitted.

for their preparation. In many cases, however, the papers were based on some local incident; often issues of Reconstruction, then fresh in the memories of many North Carolinians, were presented; or an old diary, preserved by the family of some member, was withdrawn from a forgotten nook to serve as the basis for a paper. The general inferiority complex of North Carolinians was undoubtedly a motivating influence for many papers presented. Other generalizations based on the nature of the papers might be made, but possibly the spirit which animated the Society becomes clearer when the literary programs are viewed from a different perspective.

The ready performance of "literary duties" by student members, generally those interested in the study of history, seems hardly so indicative of the general vigor of the Society as the response of faculty members whose interest lay especially in such fields as mathematics, sociology, English, philosophy, or science. The work of Professor R. L. Flowers, of the department of mathematics, is noteworthy; he read papers on the following subjects: "Fort Hamby, an Incident of Reconstruction Days in Wilkes County," "The Life of Edwin Wiley Fuller," "Another Light on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," "John Joseph Bruner," "History of the Historical Society of Trinity College," and "General Matthew W. Ransom."[61] Jerome Dowd, professor of political economy and social science at Trinity College from 1893 to 1901, presented six papers to the Society.[62] Ac-

[61] Minutes, pp. 35, 40, 47, 63; *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, pp. 363-371, and March, 1905, p. 341. In addition to the history of the Society published in the *Trinity Archive,* two of Professor Flowers's articles were published in the *Archive* and in the *Historical Papers* of the Society. See *Trinity Archive,* Dec., 1895, pp. 129-138, and *Historical Papers,* Series I (1897), pp. 1-9, for "Fort Hamby on the Yadkin"; *Trinity Archive,* Feb., 1898, pp. 268-274, and *Historical Papers,* Series III (1899), pp. 1-8, for "John Joseph Bruner."

[62] Minutes, pp. 27, 35, 39, 47, 71, 74. The Minutes for the period of Dowd's stay at Trinity College are complete. Dowd spoke on the following subjects: "The Character and Intellectuality of Dr. Craven," "Reason for Disbelief in the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," "The Reverend Moses Hester," "Dr. Knox, Negro, Scholar, & Aristocrat," "Art and Literature in Negro Homes of Durham," and "Abuses of the Internal Revenue System."

cording to the minutes of a meeting held on November 3, 1894, "Prof. Edwin Mims read a very interesting paper on 'The State Debt of Tenn[essee],' illustrating the financial condition of the South during the Reconstruction." Mims, at the time "professor of English language and literature" at Trinity College, has since become well known as a teacher and writer in his field.[63] Early in 1896, Professors William I. Cranford and W. H. Pegram, whose especial fields of study lay respectively in philosophy and chemistry, read papers to the Trinity College Historical Society.[64] Such active participation on the part of faculty members directly interested in other fields of knowledge must be considered as strong evidence of the vigor of the Society.

Papers presented by student members, if the titles may constitute a fair basis for generalization, were frequently concerned with local questions; yet many were evidently based on some research. This last factor is more noteworthy when it is recalled that the student body consisted of undergraduates. Several of the papers by students later appeared in the *Historical Papers* of the Society. These published studies undoubtedly represent the best work presented by students. Samples of the better student papers are to be found in the following list: "The Assassination of John Walter Stephens," by Luther M. Carlton; "Diary of a Confederate Refugee," by J. A. Sharpe; "De Graffenried and the Swiss and Palatine Settlements of New Berne, N. C.," by Linville L. Hendren; and "Dennis Heartt," by William K. Boyd.[65]

Visiting scholars, though few in number, also gave papers before the Society while it was under Bassett's guidance. A paper by a

[63] Minutes, p. 26; *Who's Who in America* (1938-39), p. 1765.

[64] Minutes, pp. 42-43. Cranford's paper was entitled "Abolition of Slavery among the Quakers of the N. C. Yearly Meeting" and Pegram's, "A Ku Klux Raid and what came of it." Note also *Christian Educator,* April, 1896.

[65] Minutes, pp. 49, 63, 79, 56. See also the list, by authors, of materials published in the *Historical Papers* at the end of this work. Twenty-three papers read by students were later published in the *Historical Papers* while Bassett was at Trinity College.

Baltimore artist, N. H. Busey, on "The History of Art," in which he asserted that a greater love for art would have been manifested in the South than in the North had not the former section been impoverished by war,[66] marks one of the earliest efforts to develop an interest in the fine arts at Trinity College. As is noted elsewhere, Alexander Graham of Charlotte, North Carolina, addressed the Society on that controversial issue, the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence.[67] In May, 1899, Dr. B. C. Steiner, of the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University, delivered a lecture to the Society on "The Causes of the American Revolution."[68] With the exception of the two visiting orators for the annual civic celebrations and one address by E. W. Sikes of near-by Wake Forest College,[69] the existing records of the Society reveal no further instances of visiting speakers. These few cases of the appearance of scholars from elsewhere indicate that the Society relied generally upon its membership for programs. Ability and readiness of the members to participate in "literary duties" seem indicative of a healthy condition. In fact, student participation was so marked that Professor Steiner's address of May 4, 1899, was not delivered until Stephen A. Stewart, a student, had read his paper on "The Colonial Court System in North Carolina."[70]

An objective approach to North Carolina history was one of the aims in planning programs for the Society during these years. Perhaps the most obvious theme lay in the effort to steer members toward a position which would enable them to examine various phases of North Carolina history with a more critical eye. In this effort Bassett was following in the footsteps of Weeks, and, by reason of his longer connection with the Society, was able to accomplish more. On three major issues, Bassett attempted to develop a more healthy mental attitude. Two of these related to time-honored myths in the history

[66] Minutes, p. 36; *Trinity Archive,* Dec., 1895, pp. 184-187.
[67] Minutes, pp. 32-33; *Trinity Archive,* May, 1895, p. 37.
[68] Minutes, p. 76. [69] *Trinity Archive,* May, 1905, p. 404. [70] Minutes, p. 76.

of the state: the priority of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the matter of accepting Peter Stewart Ney, a schoolmaster, as Napoleon's famous Marshal Ney. In addition, Bassett sought to have Abraham Lincoln accepted as a patriot rather than as an enemy to the interests of the South.

Chauvinistic claims for the priority of the so-called Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (May 20, 1775) doubtless originated from the low regard in which North Carolina was held as "the vale of humility between two mountains of conceit." In 1817 William Wirt's *Life of Patrick Henry* appeared with the implication that the earliest movement for American Independence had come from Virginia rather than Massachusetts. During the winter of 1818-19 the question was discussed at length by members of Congress. From this ferment the claim arose that patriots in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, were the first to declare independence. Despite general incredulity and statements of Thomas Jefferson and John Adams to the contrary, people of North Carolina, seeking a basis for state pride, subscribed to the story with enthusiasm. As years passed, the myth gained a place in the minds of most North Carolinians; but, in general, historians held that the story was not authentic.[71] The issue had broken

[71] See W. H. Hoyt, *The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence* (New York, 1907), *passim*, for the exposure of the story. Hoyt began his work with the intention of settling the question once and for all in favor of the Mecklenburg Declaration, but was forced to the opposite conclusion by what he found. The question has been discussed many times from one side or the other; see, for example, William A. Graham, *Address on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence of the 20th of May, 1775* (New York, 1875); J. S. Bassett, "Some New Material Relating to the Mecklenburg Resolutions—May 31, 1775," *Trinity Archive*, Oct., 1901, pp. 26-29; *Collier's Weekly*, July 1, 1905; H. Addington Bruce, "New Light on the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence," *North American Review*, CLXXXIII, 47-61 (July, 1906); Adelaide L. Fries, *The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence as Mentioned in the Records of Wachovia* (Raleigh, 1907); James H. Moore, *Defence of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence* (Raleigh, 1908); R. D. W. Connor, "North Carolina's Priority in the Demand for Independence," *The South Atlantic Quarterly*, VIII, 234-254 (July, 1909); Archibald Henderson, *The Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence and the Revolution in North Carolina in 1775* (Chapel Hill, 1916). The controversy was given a fresh

out anew during Weeks's stay at Trinity College, and he "brand[ed] that tale" on several occasions.[72]

During the period of Bassett's affiliation with Trinity College, however, the Mecklenburg controversy was almost constantly before the public. It provided a means of fostering his desire to develop a respect for freedom of thought. Only two years after joining the Society as head of the department of history, he wrote as follows to H. B. Adams concerning the meeting of September 25, 1897: "I appealed to the boys to let it be so that our society would be at least one place in all the South in which a man could present his opinions of our history and get a respectful hearing."[73] The Mecklenburg Declaration provided the Society with an appropriate subject for a practical lesson in tolerance. Accordingly, one of the prominent advocates of the authenticity of the Declaration, Professor Alexander Graham of Charlotte, North Carolina, was invited in 1895 to address the Society on the subject. The secretary noted that the speaker "seems to be convinced that there was such a Declaration. His proofs are plausible and convincing." But the student who prepared the account for the campus magazine was even more biased in favor of Graham's account. "This subject," he wrote, "is dear to the heart of every North Carolinian, and was presented by Mr. Graham in a manner wort[h]y of himself."[74] In a subsequent meeting, Professor Jerome Dowd "set forth his reasons for disbelief in the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence."[75] When the question had seethed a few months

airing by W. W. Henry and George W. Graham in 1896 and 1897; see *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography,* IV (1896-97), 111-115, 224-227, 334-341. This argument produced the greater part of the works listed above.

[72] Stephen B. Weeks to H. B. Adams, Trinity, N. C., Oct. 31, 1891 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

[73] Durham, N. C., Sept. 26, 1897 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University); Minutes, p. 59.

[74] Minutes, pp. 32-33; *Trinity Archive,* May, 1895, p. 37. Note also Raleigh *News and Observer,* May 8, 1895.

[75] Minutes, p. 35; *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1895, p. 58. Note also Raleigh *News and Observer,* Nov. 5, 1895.

longer, Professor Flowers reviewed the progress of the quarrel in a paper before the Society; and, two meetings later, Bassett pointed to certain inconsistencies in the argument of George W. Graham, the latest spokesman for May 20, 1775.[76] Unfortunately, almost no opinions are to be had from students, although two native Tar Heels on the faculty had been thoroughly convinced that the Mecklenburg claim was a myth. Moreover, the members of the Society had heard one of the ablest defenders of the claim as well as three attacks on its authenticity. At least such moot questions could be freely discussed before the Trinity College Historical Society.

During the same period, another controversial issue involving state pride, although not such a burning one, came to public attention when James A. Weston published his *Historic Doubts as to the Execution of Marshal Ney* (1895). The author attempted to prove true a tradition that one of Napoleon's famous marshals, Michel Ney, had escaped execution, fled to America, and spent his last years as a schoolmaster in Rowan County, North Carolina. Since this legend was not so closely allied with state pride, it was hardly so persistent as the one relative to the Mecklenburg Declaration. Moreover, Peter Stewart Ney, the North Carolina schoolmaster, had died as late as 1846. But Bassett saw another opportunity to encourage honest thinking. The following newspaper account reveals his aims as he spoke to members of the Society:

Dr. Bassett read a paper with the title "Was Marshal Ney Executed?" He took up merely the execution of Ney, and concluded that the evidence presented by Mr. Weston to show that there was a plot to rescue Ney was not sustained. He also said that while he was heartily glad to see Mr. Weston in the field of North Carolina history, and would not for a great deal personally injure so indefatigable a worker, he still considered it his duty to say that Mr. Weston's historical style is unscientific. He is too

[76] Minutes, pp. 47, 51; *Christian Educator*, Nov., 1896, and Feb., 1897. Note also Raleigh *News and Observer*, Feb. 14, 1897.

credulous and too inaccurate. The tendency of such an uncritical style is to paralyze healthy history.[77]

Nor were all of Bassett's efforts toward the development of critical thinking based on spectacular arguments concerning moot points of local history. In a review of the purposes of the Society at the first meeting of the year on October 13, 1904, Bassett gave his conception of the "common cause" confronting the group: "We are enlisted in the work of making clear the cause of truth. We are to roll back darkness, first in our own minds and then in those of other people. We are set to cause others to see, by the common obligation of all men of mind, namely, the obligation to pass on to others the torches which we have been fortunate enough to receive."[78] Urging members of the Society to "love North Carolina history" but to look at it without bias, he continued:

It [North Carolina] is certainly not the greatest part of history. I should tend to delude you if I told you that we are the greatest people in the union, or in the world. . . . other people, I think, have had a greater influence on the development of our common country than we. If, therefore, the choice had to be made between the history of the nation and the history of our State, it would be foolishness for me to say take North Carolina

[77] Raleigh *News and Observer,* Nov. 5, 1895. See also *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1895, p. 59, and Minutes, p. 35. Bassett's attempt, it would seem, did little to halt the growth of the legend. See, for example, B. D. McCubbins, "Peter Stewart Ney—Marshal Ney," *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1913, pp. 52-62; J. E. Smoot, *Marshal Ney: Before and After Execution* (Charlotte, N. C., 1929); Le Gette Blythe, *Marshal Ney: A Dual Life* (New York, 1937). Bassett's estimate of the historical interests of North Carolinians explains his emphasis on certain moot issues: "Our State history has suffered because investigators have gone afield after doubtful points. Outside of our own borders we are chiefly known in an historical way by reason of the controversies over the Mecklenburg Declaration, the Lost Colony of Roanoke, the conduct of the North Carolina militia at Guilford Court House, and the claim that the Regulators began the Revolution; and, unfortunately, in addition to all of these there is now threatening us another controverted point, viz.: 'Was Peter S. Ney Marshal Ney?' " See John S. Bassett, "Our Historical Problem," *First Annual Publication of the Historical Society of the North Carolina Conference. Methodist Episcopal Church (South),* p. 35.

[78] *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1904, p. 64.

history. Fortunately the choice does not have to be made. There is room enough for all. And when you are reasonably familiar with the history of the nation it is the time for you to go rather deeply into the history of your own state.[79]

Bassett dared also to give the Society members a lesson in sectional tolerance, although he pondered at length on a method of procedure. In 1899 he wrote to H. B. Adams as follows: "Do you know any body who would present to the Trinity College Historical Society a picture of Lincoln? I should do it myself but it would have a bad effect. If I could get such a picture I should prepare an address on Lincoln and deliver it when the picture was presented. I think some good could be done in that way."[80] It was not until six years later that the picture was presented to the Trinity College Historical Society. By some means, Bassett's desire was apparently made known to Robert Todd Lincoln, who presented a picture of his father to the Society. But Bassett, having experienced one attack from the press of North Carolina, probably deemed discretion the better part of valor. At any rate, Professor E. W. Sikes of Wake Forest College delivered an address on "Abraham Lincoln as a Statesman" when the picture was presented in April, 1905.[81]

Thus Bassett labored to develop a spirit of freedom in the minds of members of the Society. "I have tried down in my portion of the

[79] *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1904, p. 65.

[80] John S. Bassett to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., Feb. 18, 1899 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University); see also Holt, *Historical Scholarship in the United States, 1876-1901: As Revealed in the Correspondence of Herbert B. Adams,* p. 266. Holt, in the Introduction, p. 11, asserts that "there is an explanation of much in the intellectual scene . . . in Bassett's wish that someone would present a picture of Lincoln so that he could make an address on that subject at Trinity College in North Carolina."

[81] *Trinity Archive,* May, 1905, p. 404. Sikes was also trained at the Johns Hopkins University. See *Who's Who in America* (1938-39), p. 2273. Note *Durham Morning Herald,* Jan. 9, 1941, for a complete sketch of his career. Sikes died Jan. 8, 1941. An item in the *Durham Morning Herald,* Feb. 12, 1941, credits Robert Todd Lincoln alone with the presentation of the portrait.

vineyard to cause men to think," he wrote in the fall of 1898.[82] Indeed, he had. No better proof exists than the able address which he delivered to the members of the Society on the night of September 25, 1897. With his thirtieth birthday only two weeks behind him, the young leader of the Society set forth his views on the tasks confronting the student of history in the South. This clear formulation of the state of historical literature in his region, including suggestions that Jefferson Davis was not necessarily an able man and that Booker T. Washington was a man of intelligence, gives Bassett a place among the pioneers in the movement to develop a more critical spirit south of Mason and Dixon's line. It may well be doubted, however, that a large percentage of the Society caught the full implication of the address,[83] which is reproduced here.

I have completed three years of incumbency in the department of History at Trinity College, and it seems good to me to summarize, both for my own benefit and for that of the members of this Society, the chief

[82] To H. B. Adams, Nov. 15, 1898, Durham, N. C. (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). See also Holt, *Historical Scholarship in the United States, 1876-1901: As Revealed in the Correspondence of Herbert B. Adams*, p. 259.

[83] Published first in the *Trinity Archive*, Jan., 1898, pp. 177-187, and later in the *Christian Educator*, March, 1898. Note also Minutes, p. 59; and *Christian Educator*, Sept., 1897. From Durham, Bassett wrote to H. B. Adams on Sept. 26, 1897: "Last night I had an excellent meeting of our historical Society. The students are interested and I hope for good results. I am trying to put a new spirit into the historical work of the South—so far as my influence extends. Last night I made a talk on our historical ideal. I spoke of the freedom of thought in the history department of this college and of the obligation laid on us for a revival of ideas. I appealed to the boys to let it be so that our society would be at least one place in all the South in which a man could present his opinions of our history and get a respectful hearing. At this point they cheered. I think we are making progress" (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). This letter was also published by Holt in *Historical Scholarship in the United States, 1876-1901: As Revealed in the Correspondence of Herbert B. Adams*, pp. 245-247. Again, on April 17, 1898, Bassett wrote Adams: "I enclose an article—an address indeed—which I made last fall before my Historical Society. If you would like to know my sentiments about History in the South read it" (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

features of my historical concept as it has been thus far formed. I do this more gladly because I think our historical spirit is growing healthfully and in the right direction. By restating the nature of the historical problem of our section, by pausing long enough to observe our own growth, and by reviewing the relation of this society to the general life around us, I think to make you strive harder to attain to the best development in the future. I believe this of you because you are young, because you love truth, and because you are not biased by prejudice. It is with confidence in your sympathy that I arrest your attention on the problem of our history, which is the vital problem before this Historical Society.

The task that confronts the student of history in the South is severe. The conditions of our historical literature are chaotic. They may be summed up in three statements: There is a loose idea of what shall be good history; there is little demand for a proper amount of experience on the part of those who write our history; and there is a dearth of industry or system in the collection of historical documents. At least these three difficulties must be overcome before this Society—or any other like it—can hope to fulfil its mission to our people. Let us understand as nearly as possible how they are to be met.

First of all, What [*sic*] is good history? Is it ancestor worship? Is it the worship of the past? Is it the preservation of anecdotes? It is neither the one nor the other. It is the reproduction of the life of the past; not a part of the life—not necessarily the ornamental or the romantic life; but the whole life, either within a certain period or within the scope of a certain experience. If we write the history of a given period we should make it stand out faithfully in the entire life of that period. If we write the history of a man's life, we should make it a portrayal of all the forces of life, so far as they affect him, with which he came into contact. This concept we have not, as writers of history, realized. We have been content to write some personal memoirs and to exalt the deeds of ancestors, often beyond their merit; we have run after the impossible and we have supported it with flimsy evidences; we have filled newspaper columns with anecdotes of our leading men; and all of this we have called, and allowed others to call, history. Over all our pretensions in these lines

there is a pale skim of dilettanteism. Our work has been mere surface work. To be very honest with you, this sort of thing must stop. We must set our hands to the serious task of writing history systematically and comprehensively, or we must stop fancying that we are writing it at all.

And then, again, we under-appreciate the training necessary to make an historian. Any man, we think, can write history. Indeed, it is true that any man of good sense can write down what he has seen with his eyes, or has heard with his ears. He can also, in a way, combine statements made by others so as to make a narrative; but that is not sufficient. He must know how to weigh evidence; he must have the scientific spirit for facts; he must have the clear light of truth; he must have a knowledge of the habits of men in other places and in other times; he must know the bearings of other sciences and of literatures on history; more than all this, he must have facility in coming to historical judgments before he can so view the things that come before him that his view shall be valuable to us. How far short of this ideal have we come! In our loyalty to our section we have developed a type of historian which has often appeared elsewhere, but which has never gained respect in the broader world of letters. I refer to the Confederate-Brigadier-General type. It is a noticeable fact that nothing so well becomes the ambition of these military gentlemen as to withdraw into some public office of comfortable emolument, and there to devote themselves to recording the history of our past. Men who have fought bravely with the sword are thus tempted to make asses of themselves with the pen. This process has been followed until the sentiment has gotten abroad that work like this is especially reserved for such persons. The latest and most exalted folly of this kind that has come under my observation is in the State of Georgia, where the newspapers have been gravely talking about establishing the office of State Historian, and of filling it with a certain ex-Confederate military officer. It is needless to add that the friends of the officer in question were urging him for the position. This mistake has been made largely because strong-headed young men of special historical training have failed to go into the field. Undoubtedly when men so equipped do enter it, there will be no question as to which shall survive.

Yet, if our people demanded the right kind of history, demanded it enough to pay for it—and the bookseller's balance sheet is a good index of the demand for books—and if scientifically trained men were ready to write it, there would still be a difficulty in the way. I refer to the lack of historical materials. With all our pride of ancestry and all our loyalty to our institutions, it may seem strange that we preserve so few of our records. This must occur from no other cause than a failure to understand the importance of these records. I must look to this society to arouse within the scope of its influence a spirit which will set a thousand old families in this State to searching in their old chests and in their dusty garrets for the multitude of scattered facts out of which our history must be written. When these facts are ascertained they must be collected at some point where they will be accessible to historical students. In keeping with this need our Society has begun to collect materials, and I feel encouraged to hope that it may soon be able to offer the use of a valuable collection of documents to whomsoever may be in quest of information. I feel bold to say that the sources will be here at least as soon as the historian.

You may like to have me say what kind of sources it is advisable to collect. We want anything that speaks a story of past life. It may be a relic of household furniture. In our museum there is a lamp that was used by some of the earliest inhabitants of the Watauga settlement. It is a speaking witness of life in a hunter's cabin. We need files of newspapers. Our journals are the repository of all those small facts that go to make up the common pictures of life. It will be impossible to understand the real life of to-day without them. We want letters—letters of business—letters of friendly correspondence—letters written during the war—from camp or not from camp. We want diaries of all kinds. Very valuable also are old account books. Those who preserved the Household Book of Durham or the *Boldon Buke* in England, may not have known how greatly our generation would value their services; but with such a work before us it would be sheer shortsightedness if we failed to preserve for the future student the conditions of our own time. Beside these, it is needless to say we want pamphlets, books, records of meetings, assemblies, etc., and any other printed matter that can be had. The collection of such materials is a labor of love. You will not get any money, nor much honor, by doing it;

but you will be doing work for eternity; and you will be centering the eyes of the centuries on this institution.

These three difficulties, of a lack of proper historical ideals, a dearth of trained investigators, and a failure to collect sources of information, have their origin in, or are closely akin to, our lack of accurate thought. If we had trained our minds to accurate thinking we should not be satisfied to accept the kind of history we have accepted. If we had appreciated close and severe thought we should not have to complain of the attempts of the Confederate Brigadier-General in the realm of history. If, too, we had possessed an abiding sense of accuracy we should have seen that the first duty of all is to collect materials. It is to this foundation principle that I find my mind running back more and more when I try to solve the problem we have before us.

A gentleman once asked me why a certain history of Virginia is not good history. This history contains a great many Indian myths and romantic stories of the early white inhabitants. This gentleman readily admitted that these were probably not true; but, said he, why is it not as good to teach these romances as to teach the facts as they are known to have occurred. Do not the romances attract? Do they not stimulate the mind? Do they not develop the imagination and produce a state of exalted cultivation, leading to generous thoughts and higher purposes? I very seriously doubt the statement. On the other hand romances lead at best to dreams. They poison the mind with the subtle essence of the unreal. They set the soul a-tingling. If the mind be first fortified with devotion to truth they may be harmless; they may even be beneficial. But woe unto that mind of whom they take entire possession.

The truest basis of culture is accurate thought. What nobler purpose, what surer foundation, what more attractive ideal than a devotion to truth! The man who is a sentimentalist merely may live in dreams, he may become a seer of visions, and he may think that his inner self is cultured, but his work will vanish like the waves that strike the beach. Yet he who teaches one man to measure accurately a single truth, has added a stroke to the eternal force that drives on the world. Dreams vanish; facts remain. Dreams lose the mind in vapor; facts hold it to the known and enable it to direct the action of mankind. This self-mastered man who knows the

known, whose mind comprehends his environment, is he not stronger and broader and clearer in every way than he who grasps vacantly at the unreal?

I have said this much with some hesitation, because I have feared that you might understand me to mean that you should pay no attention to your emotional natures. There is a proper work for the emotions. They furnish the force which propels the soul. The very love of truth which I rate so highly is born of the emotions. You cannot run the machinery of your mind without this force behind it. Moreover, truth and proper emotions are always closely allied. The learning to know God means the acquiring of added truths in reference to the laws that operate the universe. Then, again, a false claim is sometimes made for sentiments. It has been said, for instance, that Robert Fulton, Christopher Columbus, and Christ himself, were all dreamers. The statement is not true. Fulton and Columbus took their data from facts, and in every step rested themselves on facts. The message of Christ was correlated with the deepest facts of human nature, more perfectly indeed than the human mind has yet been able to see in all of its bearings. Every step we make toward understanding the Christ plan shows this. It is not against the sentiments as a means of raising purpose that I protest, but against them as an end in themselves. We must not forget that humanity cannot live on impulse. The mind must be trained to a true recognition of facts before it can be trusted properly to form its own impulses or effectively to make them into social results.

In our ways of living we people of the South need to cultivate accuracy. Others may need it also; but we certainly need it badly. As a thinker our average man is dull at the point and round on the edge. Our statements are rarely clear-cut. We invariably say it is "about" such an hour or "about" so many miles from one place to another. That little word "about" is a badge of our intellectuality. It is as near the truth as many of us desire to get. Moreover, it influences our actions. We get to our appointments "about" on time; we "about" pay our debts; we "about" learn our lessons; we "about" do our duty, and we "about" hope to "about" get to heaven when we die. All this may be due to our delightful climate—it is more likely due to laziness, but we shall never be successful in the realm of mind until we put a period to such carelessness.

Our failure to depend on accurate thought has led us to one serious misfortune in regard to our history. I refer to our opinion in regard to the Civil War and the issues that surround it. The history that we have written of that period has depended almost entirely on our feelings about the matter. No man with instincts for accuracy can be satisfied with our statement of our own case. We have first of all put beyond question the correctness of our position in the controversy. We have claimed immunity from criticism. When one of our own side has dared to take an opposite view of these issues from that popularly held, with us he has been denounced as a traitor and a mercenary defiler of his birthplace. Now this is wrong. If we loved accuracy we should not consider the case made up till we had heard all the evidence on each side; and we should always be ready to hear with consideration any one who claims to bring new evidence on one side or the other. If a man should say, for example, that Mr. Jefferson Davis was not really an able man, we ought, as men devoted to the truth, quietly to hear his reasons for saying so, and then as quietly draw our conclusions. There were plenty of men throughout the South in 1860, who held rather the same view of Mr. Davis. Some of them were very able men themselves. Certainly they were honest and patriotic. When they opposed Mr. Davis they were not traitors to the South. No more are the men who hold a similar opinion to-day. The question of Mr. Davis' ability, or the question of the right to secede, are but matters of opinion, and how shall we ever know the truth about them if we do not have the freest criticism on each side?

If we were not blinded by anger we should laugh sometimes to see how foolishly we behave in these matters. When Mr. Trent published his "Southern Statesmen of the Old Rigime [*sic*]," a Charleston, S. C., newspaper declared that the book, for historical purposes, was not worth the paper on which it was written. Then the publishers, in the strength of good business sense, printed in their regular advertisement, along with favorable comments from some prominent journals, this statement of the South Carolina editor. I suppose such a thing was never done before in this country. It is truly ludicrous, but it is seriously important. What must be the respect of the world at large for our historical spirit and our critical fairness, when a publisher will dare to make a joke of it in this way? Does not the daring

in this feat show that the public utterly despise what we may think of our history? Here is room for anger. I hope it may be kindled in your breasts and burn there until it has destroyed every vestige of the old historical prejudice, which we have fancied criticism. I should be glad if we should become so righteously angry over it that we should decide for the future to make our criticisms statements of facts minus personal abuse.

To this Society in the field of history, and to this College in the field of general thought, there is a great duty in this connection. On matters connected with the war we are called to the task of starting a broader sentiment in this State. Trinity must be a leader of thought. With due modesty, I think we have started some reforms in the past. Our freedom from the influence of political and other prejudices, make [*sic*] us the best institution in the State to turn men's minds to a clearer realization of the proper attitude on these subjects. That we are not dead to this duty is evident. Only a few days ago I heard of a former Trinity student who said he had withdrawn his support from this college because a member of the faculty voted for Mr. McKinley, and because Prof. Booker T. Washington was invited to speak before our students. When the intelligent people of North Carolina come to know that Trinity College is a place at which members of the faculty, and all others, freely choose their political views, and at which an intelligent negro like Booker Washington, who has a message to deliver, is considerately heard in its delivery, it will be a good day for Trinity, and a good day for freedom of thought. And the same can be said of this Historical Society. There have been read papers before this Society, and printed by it, which, I think, would not have been received with a like degree of consideration by another historical society in the State. Many eyes are looking to us. We are the center of much interest. The large number of relics that are here from so many distant places testify to the extent to which we are bound to the people of our State. Our opportunities and our obligations are daily increasing. Let us continue to broaden in sentiment so that we may meet them. Let us conduct ourselves that the world may know that there is in the South at least one spot in which our history may be presented in all of its claims, and where it may receive a respectful and unimpassioned hearing. If we cannot do this we are no historians, we are but partisans.

When I came to Trinity three years ago, I was asked if an attempt would be made to revive the Historical Society. I could not believe that this Society was dead. As the event proved it was only sleeping. Within these three years we have built up a very creditable historical museum; we have made a considerable start in gathering sources of information; and we have issued the first number of an Historical Publication which has received favorable mention from some of the leading review editors of the country. I speak of these results the more easily, because they have been worked out almost entirely by other hands than mine. Personally, as the formal head of the History work, I desire to thank all those—from the President of the College to the docile Freshman—who have co-operated so faithfully for this end. I have faith to hope that more usefulness may be accomplished in the future. While I would not abate the efforts we are now making, yet I feel disposed to set before you a new task to be accomplished in the next three years. Let us begin to investigate the neglected fields of our recent history. Let us apply to the days of Reconstruction an accurate statement of facts, and so work this field at every approachable point that three years hence we may be known throughout the country as the harbingers of that newer historical literature, based on truth, which must undoubtedly come at some time. Small we are, it is true; but strength comes from conviction and from energy. For accomplishing this end I should like to suggest a motto. It is this: "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." This Society needs no other motto in order to revolutionize the writing of history in the South.

This address exemplifies Bassett's intensive efforts to promote the study of history and his reliance upon the Society in working to that end. The result of such inspiration and direction was an active organization; and a vigorous group so stimulated could not but exert an influence beyond the narrow confines of Trinity College campus. In a region so nearly devoid of activities for the preservation of source materials and the writing of history as North Carolina was before 1900, it is not surprising that the influence of the Trinity College Historical Society soon spread into other parts of the state. Early in

1899, Bassett had begun to consider some practical means for forming an organization among the students of history in North Carolina. But, he wrote, "This State has so little real historical interest in it that it cannot support an historical society outright." Nevertheless, he suggested a plan for action.[84] It may, however, have been a coincidence that a group of citizens met in Raleigh on September 18, 1900, and launched a movement which resulted in the formation of the State Literary and Historical Association. The first annual meeting was promptly called for October 23, 1900.[85]

Numerous factors point to the Trinity College Historical Society as the prototype of the State Literary and Historical Association. Present among the small group which met to consider the question of forming a state society was the Reverend Thomas N. Ivey, a graduate of Trinity College in the class of 1879. Ivey had been closely associated with Bassett in the Historical Society of the North Carolina Methodist Conference. Moreover, Ivey's brother, Eugene Claywell Ivey, had been a member of the Trinity College Historical Society from 1894 until 1896, when enthusiasm was running high over the museum.[86] In addition, Bassett made the chief address at the first meeting of the State Literary and Historical Association. His subject, "How to Collect and Preserve Historical Materials," is another indication that the museum of the Trinity College Historical Society had

[84] John S. Bassett to H. B. Adams, Durham, N. C., April 3, 1899 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). See also Holt, *Historical Scholarship in the United States, 1876-1901: As Revealed in the Correspondence of Herbert B. Adams*, p. 270.

[85] *Literary and Historical Activities in North Carolina, 1900-1905*, pp. 1-9.

[86] The Historical Society of the North Carolina Methodist Conference was functioning in 1895 under the direction of Bassett. Ivey contributed an article to the publication of the Society in 1901, a paper which had been read before the same group a year earlier. See "Prefatory Notes" in *First Annual Publication of the Historical Society of the North Carolina Conference. Methodist Church (South)*, p. 3, and T. N. Ivey, "The Life and Character of William Henry Branson," *Historical Papers published by the Historical Society of the North Carolina Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South* ([Durham,] 1901), pp. 1-11; Minutes, pp. 61, 150; *Literary and Historical Activities in North Carolina, 1900-1905*, p. 1.

attracted favorable attention in North Carolina. Bassett minced no words in his address. He condemned the spirit "born of a conviction that we [North Carolinians] are a great people wronged by some other more or less malicious people." State glorification and a propensity to chase rainbows also received denunciation. These common faults were but reflections of an "improper method" for the historian, he felt, and from that point he proceeded to outline the type of materials needed by future writers of North Carolina history. Moreover, he looked several years into the future and advised his audience that the organization must have a fireproof building and an archivist who would not be appointed on the "spoils principle." He stated in conclusion that the public should co-operate and, while developing that point, deplored the fact that North Carolinians bought so few books.[87] Another bit of evidence also points to the importance of the Trinity College Historical Society in this movement for a state-wide organization. On November 12, 1903, a student member of the Society, Henry Bethune Adams, Jr., read a paper entitled "Materials for the Study of North Carolina History in Trinity College" before the State Literary and Historical Association.[88] That the North Carolina Historical Museum was not founded until several years after the museum of the Trinity College Historical Society had attracted considerable attention is also suggestive of a more than local influence for the Trinity historians.[89] A factor contributing to the extended influence of the Society was the steady stream of publicity which it received before 1900 from the leading state newspaper, the Raleigh *News and Observer.*

[87] For the complete text of the speech see Raleigh *Morning Post,* Nov. 25, 1900. Note also *Literary and Historical Activities in North Carolina, 1900-1905,* p. 6. Bassett intended to send Adams a copy of the address; see his letter to Adams, Durham, N. C., Nov. 2, 1900 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

[88] *Literary and Historical Activities in North Carolina, 1900-1905,* p. 21.

[89] Note the plea for a state historical museum in the Raleigh *Morning Post,* Oct. 24, 1900, and F. A. Olds, "The Historical Museum," *Literary and Historical Activities in North Carolina, 1900-1905,* pp. 29-32.

Weeks and Bassett took the initiative in obtaining this notice, which was doubtless continued because of the interest of the public in the subject. Certainly no other historical organization in the state and no other educational institution enjoyed such close contact with the inauguration of the State Literary and Historical Association as did the small group affiliated at Trinity College by a common interest in history. There must have been some truth in the pronouncement made by the editor of the *Trinity Archive* in April, 1897: ". . . students have become deeply interested in history, and our college is coming to be considered as an institution that stands in the forefront in historical research."[90]

The statement of the student editor was a reflection of general pride in the accomplishments of the Society. During 1894, certain newspapers in North Carolina commented on the organization of a history club at Davidson College as the only one of its kind in the state. Immediately the following claim was made in behalf of the Trinity College Historical Society: "Trinity College has had a club of this kind for nearly two years, and it has done a good work."[91] The campus magazine received extravagant praise from the press for its publication of numerous articles based on original source materials. In fact, pride in the reputation of the college magazine led to an article by Bassett in 1900 entitled "The Contribution of the Archive to History," wherein the author gave a bibliographical summary of all original articles which had appeared in the magazine.[92] There was, however, no better evidence of pride in the achievements of the group than the celebration held in 1902 on the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Society.[93] Furthermore, interest in the organiza-

[90] P. 361.

[91] Raleigh *News and Observer*, Dec. 2, 1894. In time the Society received as a gift the first number of the *Studies of History* from the Davidson College Historical Society. See Minutes, p. 66.

[92] Raleigh *News and Observer*, Oct. 18, 1896; *Trinity Archive*, Dec., 1900, pp. 154-160.

[93] See *Trinity Archive*, March, 1902, *passim*.

tion was not confined to one department; enthusiastic response came alike from students of history, professors of English or mathematics, as well as from the president of the College.

Bassett's work with the Trinity College Historical Society may be summarized in a single sentence carrying one qualification: he worked for the organization with inexhaustible energy except for a five-year period while preoccupied with *The South Atlantic Quarterly.* In a large measure his aims were realized, and there is evidence that his efforts to develop a more critical spirit among the members of the Society were not altogether in vain. According to his own words when severing his connections with the Society, there was "no organization which he regretted leaving more."[94] This statement, made on the eve of his departure for Smith College, in itself demonstrated his views concerning the success of the Society while under his guidance. Even the years devoted to *The South Atlantic Quarterly* were fruitful, since in this period Boyd took over many responsibilities for the direction of the Society and thus prepared himself for becoming Bassett's successor. Perhaps, in the final analysis, Bassett's most important work for the Society was his share in the training of William Kenneth Boyd, who, by virtue of his position as professor of history at Trinity College, became responsible for the direction of the Society in 1906.

[94] *Trinity Chronicle,* Sept. 26, 1906. His acceptance of a position at Smith College, Bassett stated, was due to the better facilities for research to be found in New England (see *Trinity Archive,* Oct., 1906, p. 44), but perhaps he was moved in part by the attack on him in the press during 1902 and 1903.

III

William Kenneth Boyd assumed leadership of the Trinity College Historical Society immediately upon Bassett's departure. In many respects he was better prepared for the task than his predecessor had been. His native endowments were exceptional: an excellent memory and a keen and inquiring mind. His training had been received from Bassett, who was a disciple of Adams, and from William A. Dunning and James Harvey Robinson. Boyd possessed a large measure of Adams's power to inspire his students as well as Dunning's ability to conduct scientific and scholarly investigations.[1] Boyd's interests had been broadened by the study of medieval history. Furthermore, his connection with the Trinity College Historical Society dated from the third year of its existence. A brief review of his career before he became professor of history at Trinity College in 1906 reveals the breadth of his training and his interest in the Society before he was responsible for its conduct.

Boyd obtained his earlier training at Weaver College, a small Methodist institution near Asheville, North Carolina. In the fall of 1895 he entered the junior class of Trinity College and immediately fell under the influence of Bassett. There is no record concerning his connection with the Society during his first year at Trinity, but he was undoubtedly an active member, since at the first meeting in his senior year he read "a very interesting and instructive Paper entitled John S. Cairns Ornithologist," and presented to the museum a "Manuscript copy of [a] Catalogue of birds of Western North Car. by J. S. Cairns." At the same meeting he was elected corresponding secretary of the Society. Again, at a meeting, February 6, 1897, he presented a paper,

[1] See Kraus, *A History of American History*, pp. 312-313, 540, for an evaluation of the work of Adams and Dunning.

WILLIAM KENNETH BOYD

"Classes in Western N. C.," and in April another, on "Dennis W. Heartt, Editor."[2] Bassett, as leader of the Society, did not perform "literary duties" more sedulously than did Boyd as a member of the senior class. During the ensuing academic year 1897-98, in which Boyd obtained the degree of master of arts from Trinity, he served as vice-president of the Society and presented one paper to the group.[3]

Boyd's connection with the Society was not broken by graduation. As master in history in the Trinity Park School, he remained a member of the Society for the next two academic years, serving as president both years. During this period he gave two papers on Holden's career, one on "Ad valorem Slave Taxation," and another on the "Career of Nathaniel Macon in Congress." He also presented valuable papers connected with Holden to the museum.[4] It will be recalled that the civic celebration was inaugurated during these years. With his service as master in history at the Trinity Park School, Boyd's first period of work for the Society was terminated.

From the spring of 1900 until he succeeded Bassett in 1906, Boyd's academic career was exceedingly peripatetic, although a third of the period was spent at Trinity. His frequent changes during these years were due to his decision to continue the study of history in pursuit of the degree of doctor of philosophy. Bassett's opinion of the young scholar and his effort to place him under the tutelage of Herbert Baxter Adams are tributes to Boyd's ability. In January, 1898, while Boyd was

[2] Minutes, pp. 44-46, 51, 56; see also *Christian Educator,* Oct., 1896, and Feb., 1897. All of these papers were later published in the *Trinity Archive:* "John S. Cairns, Ornithologist," Oct., 1896, pp. 25-30; "Classes in Western North Carolina," Feb., 1897, pp. 219-225; "Dennis Heartt," April, 1897, pp. 344-353. The articles on Cairns and Heartt also appeared in the *Historical Papers* of the Society. See Appendices.

[3] Minutes, pp. 59, 65. The paper entitled "The Early Career of Holden" was later printed, with additions, in the *Trinity Archive* and in the *Historical Papers* of the Society. See issues of the former for April, 1898, pp. 396-413; May, 1898, pp. 459-480; Oct., 1898, pp. 21-38; Nov., 1898, pp. 112-121; Jan., 1899, pp. 272-285. Note Series III of the latter, pp. 39-78, 90-130.

[4] Minutes, pp. 67, 69, 70; *Trinity Archive,* Dec., 1899, p. 209; May, 1900, p. 512.

still a candidate for the master's degree at Trinity, Bassett wrote Adams concerning a student whom he had previously sent to the Johns Hopkins. But he added: "I have another boy here that I want to send you. He is a delightful student. He is a prize, I think. W. K. Boyd is his name."[5] Again, in the succeeding year, April 3, 1899, Bassett wrote to Adams regarding the possibility of obtaining members for the American Historical Association in the State of North Carolina. When suggesting Boyd's name as a prospective member, he once more mentioned his exceptional ability:

> Another is Mr. W. K. Boyd of Durham, N. C. He is a very promising man. His paper on Holden is the best study in Reconstruction in N. C. that I have seen. He teaches history in the Trinity Park High School; but I hope to get him to go to J. H. U. next year. He is in many ways a better man than [Charles Clinton] Weaver, [A.B., Trinity, 1895; Ph.D., Johns Hopkins, 1900] and he is of the new way of thinking in the South. When [E. W.] Sikes heard him read a portion of the Holden paper he (Sks.) remarked that you would be pleased with the paper at the Hopkins Seminary.

So convinced was Adams of Boyd's superior ability that he wrote on Bassett's letter: "Elect proposed candidate."[6]

But Boyd had other ideas concerning his forthcoming graduate work. His long study of W. W. Holden, Reconstruction Governor of North Carolina, had turned his attention to Dunning and work in the period of Reconstruction. Bassett wrote Adams once more, May 27, 1900, strongly urging that Boyd be given an honorary scholarship. He added: "Dunning is so pleased with it [the paper on Holden] that inducements are held out to him to go to Columbia. I am doing my best to get him to go to Hopkins. I entreat you to do what you can

[5] Trinity College, Durham, N. C., Jan. 24, 1898 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). Adams had underlined the last sentence.

[6] Durham, N. C. (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

for him."[7] Less than a month later Bassett explained Boyd's choice to Adams, stating that "his inability to read German at sight" had seemed to bar him from a fellowship at Columbia. Boyd had then applied to the Hopkins. Nevertheless, wrote Bassett:

On June 1 [1900] he was notified that he was given a scholarship at Columbia. He had already set his mind on going to Columbia & told me he would accept the scholarship. I urged him to write at once & withdraw the Hopkins application. He did so but was too late. I am sorry he will not go to Hopkins. I have been preparing him with an eye to Hopkins all along, & he is undoubtedly very well prepared for the best work.[8]

Boyd thus began work at Columbia University in the fall of 1900.

His graduate study, however, was interrupted before completion. After one year at Columbia he returned to Trinity College, where he served as adjunct professor of history for two years. It was during this period that Professor Flowers, in singling out the important factors which had contributed to the success of the Society, gave especial emphasis to the work of Boyd as a student and instructor.[9] By serving as president again in 1901-1902,[10] Boyd added to his experience in directing the activities of the Society. He returned to Columbia as a fellow in history in 1903-1904, thus completing his residence work, although the degree of doctor of philosophy was not conferred until 1906. He wrote articles for the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* during 1904-1905; and, throughout the following year, served as instructor in history at Dartmouth College. As Bassett's successor, he returned to Trinity College in the fall of 1906, remaining there until his death.[11]

[7] *Ibid.*

[8] Cambridge, Mass., June 17, 1900 (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University).

[9] *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, p. 371. [10] Minutes, p. 89.

[11] Professor W. T. Laprade's sketch of Boyd's career has been used as an outline for this account. The introduction of other material is indicated by footnotes. For Professor Laprade's sketch see *Historical Papers* of Trinity College Historical Society, Series XXII, pp. 5-8.

It is a singular fact that the most fruitful period of the Society's existence, the years of Boyd's leadership, is marked by an almost total lack of official records. Boyd's characteristics, moreover, did not impel him to prepare formal addresses for reading to the Society, as did Bassett. Had he done so, such papers would very likely have been discarded to lie for years to come among a débris of miscellaneous items. Fortunately, a campus newspaper, the *Trinity Chronicle,* was in existence throughout the period when Boyd was head of the department of history at Trinity. Fortunately, also, there are in existence numerous concrete evidences of his work with the Trinity College Historical Society. The continued and healthy existence of the Society in the face of a rising student interest in fraternities and organized athletics testifies to Boyd's ability to inspire his students. The organization was not even lost in the disturbances of the World War nor in the ensuing decade when Boyd was forced to turn his attention to other things.[12]

On returning to the College as professor, he sought to improve the physical arrangements of the museum and also placed emphasis on the collection of a more desirable type of materials, an emphasis which ultimately appealed to individuals outside the membership of the Society. In fact, this phase of Boyd's work was responsible for an important collection of source materials. Under his direction, students began to take a more practical interest in the organization as is evident from the programs and other activities of the Society. On several occasions the Society received especial commendation from the secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission for its programs and its work in collecting and publishing. The fame of the organization spread; and, in the course of time, other historians sought to learn something of its operation with a view to establishing similar groups. In the final analysis, Boyd's work with the Society brought about a realization of many of the objectives outlined by Weeks in 1892.

[12] *In Memoriam: William Kenneth Boyd, Historical Papers* of the Trinity College Historical Society, Series XXII, *passim.*

Boyd first turned his attention to the museum. According to the *Trinity Chronicle* for January 16, 1907, scarcely more than three months after Bassett's departure, Boyd and Clarence Eugene Phillips, curator of the museum, were "indexing and rearranging the relics, old documents, etc. . . . ," among which was an invitation to Trinity's first commencement. Activities throughout the year, 1906-1907, were largely devoted to "the straightening up of . . . relics and historical documents which had been in a very chaotic condition."[13] This work continued into the following year with Boyd and the new curator, Thomas McMillan Grant, directing the activities. They spent some time in the vault, "arranging and classifying ancient letters and documents in order to ascertain just what the museum is most in need of." During the first part of January, 1908, a new showcase arrived and an elaborate exhibit was prepared for the new generation of students as yet unaware of what the Society owned. The campus newspaper carried a lengthy account of the material taken from the vault for display. It is significant that no "relics" were given important positions.[14]

A kindred task lay in the compilation of a catalogue of all materials at Trinity College bearing upon the history of North Carolina. Apparently these materials were chiefly pamphlets and unbound volumes. An account appearing in October, 1908, stated: "A large force is now at work on it and by the end of the year it will be completed."[15]

Efforts to improve the museum continued. In the fall of 1910 the work outlined for the year required that the museum be enlarged, new cases added, and that the curator "label and catalog all the properties."[16] In less than two months new cases had been set up "containing manuscripts of the Reconstruction period, and complete sets of textbooks used in the Confederate States."[17] The collection had thus

[13] *Trinity Chronicle*, May 15, 1907.
[14] *Ibid.*, Jan. 15, 1908.
[15] *Ibid.*, Oct. 14, 1908.
[16] *Ibid.*, Sept. 7, 1910.
[17] *Ibid.*, Nov. 30, 1910.

reached a point enabling the museum to be used for teaching. Apparently the physical arrangements were not disturbed again until 1924, when the library was rearranged and the entire museum moved to the second floor.[18] This change in 1924 was apparently the final one to occur before the museum was absorbed in plans for a more comprehensive collection of manuscripts, newspapers, and books.

By 1910 Boyd was planning to interest members of the Society in acquiring more useful objects. Emphasis was placed on the acquisition of "a collection of relics illustrating developments in domestic economy." It was not long until Homer Lee Scott donated an old loom and flax heckle which were described as "a valuable addition to the society's collection of the implements used in domestic industry before the introduction of machinery, which is now becoming fairly complete."[19] In the *Third Biennial Report of the North Carolina Historical Commission* covering the period from December 1, 1908, to November 30, 1910, especial attention was called to the Society's collection of "relics illustrative of the handmade and domestic articles which have been displaced by the advances of machinery and the factory system."[20] Among later donations falling in the same category were "a part of the machinery used in the first cotton mill in N. C.," "homemade plow-shares," an old stone mill, and a "candlestick." So important was this type of collecting considered that the Society purchased a spinning wheel.[21]

Despite this emphasis on a different type of relic, the Society continued to receive donations of more importance as curiosities than as historical records, although the proportion of such gifts was far smaller

[18] *Ibid.*, Oct. 8, 1924, and Oct. 28, 1925.

[19] *Ibid.*, Sept. 28 and Nov. 30, 1910; Trinity College Historical Society: List of Donations, 1904-15, p. 37.

[20] Raleigh, 1910, pp. 48-49.

[21] *Trinity Chronicle,* March 1, 1916; Oct. 28, 1925; Trinity College Historical Society: List of Donations, 1904-15, p. 70. See p. 46 for the purchase of the spinning wheel. See *Trinity Alumni Register,* I (April, 1915), 34-35, for a tactful emphasis on relics connected with the "growth of industries."

than in the earlier years. Some of these gifts, however, attracted interest because of their unique nature. One such donation was a collection of articles "descriptive of the domestic habits and customs of the Coreans" presented by the Reverend Jacob Robert Moose, a returned missionary and a member of the class of 1892.[22] Of less utility as historical records were the "Confederate revolver, which was in use on the Confederate battleship 'Alabama,'" "a large Porto Rican medal struck in honor of Ponce de Leon,"[23] and a "Fish tooth from Culebra Cut Panama."[24] The most venerated of the "relics" was a piece of flag supposedly used by Columbus. It was known as the oldest relic owned by the Society, having been acquired some time before 1912. This supposed remnant of the flag of Columbus was still regarded as a "relic" of prime importance after Trinity College, in name at least, had become Duke University. The following account appeared in the campus paper:

Probably the oldest object of historical significance on exhibition is a very small remnant of the flag which Columbus is supposed to have raised in America October 12th, 1492. The flag was exhibited at World's Fair in London. In the handling of the flag, which was very putrid, a small piece fell from it. A part of that piece may be seen in the museum.[25]

While welcoming such donations, a constant emphasis was placed on the acquisition of more valuable material. In an item appearing in the *Durham Recorder* for November 29, 1907, a significant differentiation was made in the account of materials presented to the museum

[22] *Trinity Chronicle,* April 24, 1907. It is possible that Moose's interest had been aroused by Weeks in 1892. Other oriental articles were received from time to time. See, for example, *Trinity Chronicle,* Nov. 17, 1909, and Nov. 30, 1910; and Trinity College Historical Society: List of Donations, 1904-15, pp. 21, 26, 37.

[23] *Trinity Chronicle,* Nov. 30, 1910; March 1, 1916.

[24] Trinity College Historical Society: List of Donations, 1904-15, p. 70. Apparently a few relics of the World War were received later. See *Trinity Alumni Register,* Jan., 1920, pp. 287-288.

[25] *Chronicle,* Oct. 28, 1925. See also *Chanticleer,* I (1912), 172, for what seems to be the first mention of the flag.

at the regular monthly meeting held on the previous Monday. The account read: "No curios were presented at this time, but a large number of papers and documents were presented which will be turned over to the curator of the museum." Similar phraseology was used again in 1908, when "no curios . . . [but] several valuable papers and documents" were presented.[26] In March, 1910, Boyd made the same differentiation when reading a "list of the relics and manuscripts which had been presented to the society during the month."[27] In 1912 the campus paper carried a detailed account of four manuscript collections, three of which were donations. In the same account only one sentence pertained to "relics," although the reference was to "a collection of eastern coins, the oldest dating from the reign of Mithradates [*sic*], King of Pontus."[28] It may readily be seen that Boyd's idea was to teach the members of the Society to distinguish between records of content and records of sentiment and curiosity. An excellent opportunity to do this came in the autumn of 1906, when Abbott E. Lloyd of Durham presented to the museum "a large, old-fashioned lock, which, according to very reliable tradition, had once belonged to the door of Rose of Sharon Baptist Church, the oldest church in the vicinity of Durham." The key itself was of no value, but a "little inquiry revealed the fact that the church was the antecedent of the First Baptist Church; the church records were also found: and from them" Richard T. Howerton, Jr., a member of the Society in the senior class, prepared a valuable article on "The Rose of Sharon Baptist Church."[29]

A casual examination of manuscripts, newspapers, and books acquired by the Society during the early years of Boyd's guidance offers evidence that the sharp differentiation between sentimental relics and written records was clearly understood by members of the Society. One

[26] *Trinity Chronicle*, Oct. 12, 1908. [27] *Ibid.*, March 23, 1910.

[28] *Ibid.*, Oct. 9, 1912. This donation of Eastern coins was made by Preston Eugene King, an alumnus of Trinity then living in Turkey.

[29] *Trinity Archive*, Feb., 1908, pp. 187-195. See also *Historical Papers* of the Trinity College Historical Society, Series VII (1907), pp. 39-47.

record book, and that apparently incomplete, shows that, from November 23, 1909, until November 4, 1919, the Trinity College Historical Society placed six hundred and twenty-six valuable books in the college library.[30]

In 1912 the total collection of books and pamphlets owned by the Society was authoritatively estimated at more than two thousand and the manuscript items at slightly less than six thousand.[31] Outstanding collections of manuscript materials were those relating to the history of Trinity College, the correspondence of Governor Tod R. Caldwell, reminiscences of General W. R. Boggs, and some of the correspondence of Governor Francis W. Pickens of South Carolina.[32] Among newspapers and periodicals acquired in lengthy files were *DeBow's Review,* the *Raleigh Minerva, Niles' Register,* a long file of the *Wilmington Star* beginning in 1867, "a file of the *South Atlantic Quarterly,* presented by Dr. J. S. Bassett to replace the numbers lost in the Main Building Fire," and several bound volumes of the *Farmers' Journal* published at Bath, North Carolina.[33] During this period of slow but steady accumulation of historical materials, Boyd, in a request for donations, recalled the aim of the Society to alumni and friends. This aim, though both prophetic and ambitious, was expressed in the past tense: "For years it [the Society] has cherished a hope and a faith that some day Trinity would have such a collection of historical material relating to the South and particularly to North Carolina as could not be overlooked by those who in the future shall write the history of our section."[34]

Although small collections continued to trickle into the museum,

[30] Record of Books Put in Trinity College Library by Trinity College Historical Society, 1909-19, pp. 1-14 (MS in Duke University Library).

[31] *Chanticleer,* I, 172.

[32] *Trinity Chronicle,* Sept. 28, 1910; Oct. 9, 1912.

[33] Trinity College Historical Society: List of Donations, 1904-15, pp. 21, 23, 59; *Trinity Chronicle,* Oct. 20, 1909; March 1, 1911; March 1, 1916.

[34] Boyd, "The Trinity College Historical Society: A Record and an Appeal," *Trinity Alumni Register,* I (April, 1915), 35.

Boyd was evidently interested in carrying into execution Bassett's earlier plan of acquiring large collections. He enthusiastically welcomed the donation of more than two thousand volumes from the library of Dr. Albert M. Shipp in 1921.[35] In one instance Boyd's procedure as a collector seems clear. The *Trinity Chronicle* for September 29, 1909, carried the statement that "Dr. W. K. Boyd, of the Department of History, spent several days in Rockingham last week on business for the Historical Society." In view of a later item in the same paper, it may be concluded that some student member of the Society returned to the campus in the fall of 1909 with news of historical records to be obtained in Rockingham. Perhaps the deal was somewhat too ambitious for the student, but Boyd was successful. At the next meeting of the Society "Dr. Boyd announced the presentation of many books, pamphlets, old deeds and land grants to the society" including "forty volumes of old books presented by Mrs. Slade of Rockingham county."[36] Again, in 1911 he secured "through the Literary fund . . . seventy-seven volumes of North Carolina newspapers such as the *Wilmington-Star.*" Concerning this latter feat, Bassett wrote to him as follows: "You are doing the best kind of work, work that will tell. To have got the newspapers from Wilmington is worth as much as to write a book. They will be there when the book is forgotten."[37] Boyd was assisted materially in collecting by Dr. Randolph G. Adams, now director of the William L. Clements Library, during the three

[35] *Trinity Chronicle,* Dec. 14, 1921. This collection was the gift of Miss Susie V. Shipp, the daughter of Dr. Albert M. Shipp and the aunt of Professor Albert M. Webb of Duke University; it was described as a collection "splendidly selected." See *Annual Catalogue of Trinity College, 1921-1922,* p. 167. This was not the first collection donated to the College by Professor Webb's family. In the *Annual Catalogue of Trinity College, 1917-1918* the following account occurs: "The library of the late John M. Webb, of Bell Buckle, Tennessee, containing several thousand volumes, has been given to the College, and is maintained as a separate collection. The books came in 1917 as a gift from Mrs. Webb in memory of her husband, who was for many years one of the principals of the Webb School in Tennessee" (p. 48). See also *Trinity Chronicle,* Oct. 31, 1917.

[36] *Trinity Chronicle,* Oct. 20, 1909.

[37] Northampton, Mass., Jan. 8, 1911 (Correspondence in Duke University Library).

years (1920-23) that he was a member of the department of history. In fact, Adams accompanied by Professor Allan H. Gilbert of the English department actually went to South Carolina to supervise the removal of the Shipp Collection in the year that Boyd was on leave in Philadelphia. "The work of Trinity men in keeping these old collections from finding their way into the vaults of great northern universities," rejoiced a writer in the campus paper, "is more and more enlisting the support of loyal Southerners."[38] In the spring of 1921 Boyd was instrumental in purchasing the valuable libraries of Weldon N. Edwards and Marmaduke J. Hawkins, both of whom had been distinguished citizens of the state. A still more impressive collection was added in 1925.[39]

These efforts to steer the interests of the Society toward the collection of more valuable records during the lean years sharpened Boyd's wits for collecting on a larger scale. At the same time he continued the graduate work begun in the history department by Bassett and thus prepared himself to take advantage of the wider opportunities of later and more prosperous years. Furthermore, his persistent work in improving the Society's publication, the *Historical Papers,* was also a factor in paving the way for a more extensive collection of materials in the field of Southern history.

The gradual improvement of this publication had not escaped the notice of two observers who were to play distinguished roles in increasing the Society's collection of historical materials, Robert Lee Flowers and William Washington Flowers. A partial account of the work of the former in the interest of the Society has already been given. Of

[38] *Trinity Chronicle,* Dec. 14, 1921. Adams, in a letter to Boyd, Cheraw, S. C., Nov. 28, 1921, referred to his journey to get the Shipp Collection (Correspondence in Duke University Library). For Boyd's leave and Adams's tenure at Trinity see *Annual Catalogue of Trinity College 1919-1920,* p. 16; *1920-1921,* p. 14; *1921-1922,* pp. 12, 14; *1922-1923,* p. 14.

[39] *Annual Catalogue of Trinity College, 1921-1922,* p. 167; *Trinity Chronicle,* Oct. 21, 1925.

the brother, who was a charter member of the Society, President Crowell wrote in 1894:

> It would be hard to find a more commendable young man as a teacher than *Mr. W. W. Flowers,* who is an applicant for a position in the Graded School. We had counted on retaining him as a Tutor for next year but as yet there is no opening. We hope that you will not fail to secure him since he has the qualities which make him the friend and leader of youths and boys of the age he would have to deal with.
>
> Of his scholarship there is no doubt. He will graduate with high rank in a good class of sixteen. Socially he will add strength to any position he may take and you may count on his loyalty to his employers—a good thing, indeed, as I happen to know. A trial will make you proud of your bargain, in getting him.[40]

The fact that he became superintendent of the Durham schools within three years indicates that Crowell's words were not extravagant. In 1897 he was known as "the youngest Superintendent in the State."[41] Ultimately he was brought to Trinity College to serve as head of the modern language department; but, on account of trouble with his eyes, he was forced to forego an academic career.[42] Later he entered the business world.

A modest line in *Who's Who in America* names Mr. Flowers merely as: "chmn. bd. Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co."[43] This statement concerning his achievement in the business world does not measure his interest in Trinity College, an interest which he shared with other members of his family. Examination of the catalogues of the College

[40] To W. A. Guthrie, Chairman of the Board of Education, Durham, N. C., May 25, 1894 (Crowell's Letter Book, March-July, 1894, p. 507, in Duke University Library).

[41] *Trinity Archive,* Dec., 1897, p. 176. During his college years Flowers had served as an associate editor of the College magazine and had achieved campus fame as an athlete. See *Trinity Archive,* May, 1892, pp. 343-344; Nov., 1893, p. 37; Dec., 1893, p. 31; Feb., 1894, p. 25; March, 1895, p. 25; *Christian Educator,* Dec., 1896.

[42] *Trinity Archive,* Oct., 1900, p. 47; Feb., 1901, p. 288; interview with Miss Eva Earnshaw Malone, Dec. 7, 1940.

[43] *1940-1941,* XXI, 944.

from 1900 until 1923 shows that three hundred and eighty-nine books were given to the library by five members of the Flowers family, including, in addition to the two brothers, a sister, Estelle Flowers, now Mrs. Marshall Spears, and their father and mother, Colonel and Mrs. George Washington Flowers. The striking fact concerning the donation of these books lies in the regularity with which they were received rather than the numbers in which they came. But, in three years after 1923, the number given by the same family had been virtually doubled. This rapid increase was due to the receipt, during 1925-26, of two hundred and ten volumes from the George Washington Flowers Memorial Fund.[44]

This memorial was described for the first time in the Duke University catalogue of 1924-25: "Mr. W. W. Flowers, of New York City, has donated to the Library a number of valuable books toward the establishment of a memorial collection in honor of his father, the late Colonel G. W. Flowers, who was for a long time a trustee of the College."[45] The memorial was started without fanfare. It seems unlikely that Boyd took the initiative in an effort to interest the Flowers family in such a collection.[46] In fact, according to his own account, the matter was first mentioned to him by Mr. W. W. Flowers. Mr. Flowers told Boyd that his efforts to build up the library of Trinity College and his work with the Society in publishing the *Historical Papers* had not gone unnoticed. He then suggested that Boyd become the active agent in building up the proposed memorial collection.[47] It is likely that Boyd suggested that the collection be limited to materials relating to the Southern area of the United States.

[44] *Annual Catalogue of Duke University, 1925-1926*, p. 266.

[45] P. 69.

[46] Cf. Bennett Harvie Branscomb and Robert H. Woody on pages 17 and 20 in Series XXII of the *Historical Papers* of the Trinity College Historical Society entitled *In Memoriam: William Kenneth Boyd* who credit him with so doing.

[47] This is substantially the account told to the author by Boyd about two years before his death.

The idea of establishing a collection in memory of Colonel George Washington Flowers seems to date from the period immediately following the World War when the typical American had turned from "Liberty-loan campaigns . . . to community-chest drives and college-endowment-fund drives and church-membership drives and town-boosting drives and a multitude of other public campaigns." Durham, North Carolina, was no exception to this general condition. Apparently the Flowers family, faced with numerous campaigns, decided to concentrate on the establishment of the memorial collection which was destined to furnish members of the Trinity College Historical Society, as well as other scholars, with a generous supply of source materials for studying the history of the South.[48] Professor R. L. Flowers was naturally influential with his brother in establishing this memorial collection.

Such were the facts that lay behind the conversion of the museum into a collection devoted primarily to more valuable historical materials. Actually this change represented the partial fulfilment of the most important aim written into the constitution of the Society in 1892. Boyd, in the last years of his life, still encouraging his students to aid in the work,[49] devoted his best energies to building the collection into one of greater importance. In a remarkably short period the old museum articles became a small part of a large collection of manuscripts,

[48] This account was outlined to the author, Dec. 7, 1940, by Miss Eva Earnshaw Malone, long an intimate of the Flowers family and chief of the catalogue department and assistant librarian of the Trinity College Library and Duke University Library from 1914 until 1940. Perhaps Miss Malone's support of the plan to start the collection was an important factor in its ultimate success. For a sketch of Miss Malone's career see Duke University Staff Association Bulletin issued Dec. 5, 1940, in mimeographed form. The quotation relative to general public drives and campaigns is from Frederick L. Allen, *Only Yesterday* (New York, 1931), p. 226. See also Raleigh *News and Observer*, Nov. 23, 1922. See the following issues of the same paper for accounts of a campaign for a $35,000,000 Centenary Fund for missionary work in the Methodist Church and a drive for $70,000 for the Trinity College Alumni Association: Nov. 17, 1922; Nov. 6, 1922.

[49] The records of the Manuscript Division of Duke University Library contain numerous notations of materials brought in by Boyd's students.

periodicals, newspapers, maps, broadsides, music, pamphlets, and books connected generally with the history of the South. At the sacrifice of Boyd's own research, the work was carried on until, at his death, the collection amounted to virtually one-half million pieces of manuscript material, approximately eleven thousand volumes of newspapers, hundreds of volumes of periodicals, and more than twenty-five thousand books and pamphlets.[50]

Despite the strong emphasis on collecting materials for historical study, other phases of the Society's activity were not neglected. The literary programs assumed more importance in this period perhaps than in the years of Bassett's direction, when the museum occupied much attention. From the fall of 1906 until the spring of 1928 there is mention in the campus newspaper of one hundred and two papers read before the Society. Students presented 48 per cent of the total number, faculty members 38 per cent, and visiting scholars the remaining 14 per cent. Until the spring of 1920 the papers were predominantly concerned with the history of North Carolina, although several related to the South in general. On April 12, 1920, apparently on account of the World War, there occurred an innovation in the type of paper read before the Society, a reflection of a changing emphasis in the teaching of history throughout the United States. In the case of the Trinity College Historical Society, the first marked evidence of the change appeared when Professor William T. Laprade, a member of the history faculty and of the Society since 1909, lectured on the "New German Constitution."[51] Thereafter more than 50 per cent of the programs

[50] See R. H. Woody, "Collector—The George Washington Flowers Collection," *In Memoriam: William Kenneth Boyd* in Trinity College Historical Society *Papers,* Series XXII, pp. 19-69. For detailed lists of newspapers see Mary Westcott and Allene Ramage, *A Checklist of United States Newspapers in the General Library* (Bibliographical Contributions of the Duke University Libraries), Parts I to VI, Durham, 1932-37. Since Boyd's death the direction of the Flowers Collection has been in the hands of Dr. Robert H. Woody, a student of Boyd's, who since his graduate-student days has been an active member of the Trinity College Historical Society.

[51] *Trinity Chronicle,* April 14, 1920. For Professor Laprade's arrival at Trinity College as a member of the department of history see *ibid.,* Sept. 15, 1909. His first

were concerned with European history, usually relating to contemporary affairs.

A consideration of the various papers read by students from 1906 to 1920 reveals several common factors. Although still predominantly local, these papers were seldom of a nature permitting the use of a single source, as had often been the case in previous years. Among these papers were Earl Ruffin Franklin's "Henry Clay's Visit to Raleigh," presented in 1907; Bob Lee Phillips's "Confederate Military Prison at Salisbury," heard by the Society in 1908; Robert Gregg Cherry's "The Stamp Act in North Carolina," given in 1910; Floyd Sheddon Bennett's work entitled "Southern Magazines during the Reconstruction Period," presented in 1912; and Charles Augustus Reap's "Emancipation Laws in the South previous to 1860," presented before the Society in 1917.[52] Perhaps of equal significance was the fact that two students, during this period, were inspired to continue their work after leaving college. Joseph Kelly Turner, who read three papers relative to Edgecombe County from 1914 to 1916, later included these studies in a history of the county.[53] Isaac Samuel Harrell prepared a sketch of Gates County in March 1916; and, as a result of interest inspired by this work, he later produced an able study on the economic history of the American Revolution. In the Preface of his book, Harrell wrote in 1926: "I am indebted to Professor William K. Boyd, of Duke University, who first directed my interest to the Revolution in the South."[54] Only five of the thirty-six papers known

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appearance before the Society as a speaker occurred in October, 1909, when he read a paper on the "Status of the Slave Trade in the District of Columbia." See *Trinity Chronicle,* Oct. 20, 1909.

[52] *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 6, 1907; Oct. 12, 1908; Nov. 30, 1910; Nov. 27, 1912; Feb. 28, 1917.

[53] The papers were entitled: "Slavery in Edgecombe County," "Baptists in Edgecombe County" and "Early Settlers and Origin of Edgecombe County" (*Trinity Chronicle,* March 31, 1915; March 1, 1916; and Nov. 29, 1916). See Chapters I, V, and XII in J. Kelly Turner and John L. Bridgers, *History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina* (Raleigh, 1920).

[54] Harrell, *Loyalism in Virginia* (Durham, 1926), p. vi. Note *Trinity Chronicle,*

to have been presented by students during this period were entirely local in character.

In the years before the programs of the Society came to be dominated by contemporary European history, the papers presented by faculty members were generally restricted to members of the department of history. Numerous papers were read by Boyd; in fact, he read one almost every year. Professor Laprade, whose field was English history, read only two papers during the period, though he was frequently reported as leading the discussions.[55] Only eight of the twenty-two papers presented by faculty members from 1906 until 1920 came from members outside the history department. Two were read by Professor Edwin Mims of the department of English, while a member of the same department, William Preston Few, read a paper entitled "The Personality of Lincoln" on the occasion of the celebration of the centennial of Lincoln's birth. Eugene Clyde Brooks, a charter member of the Society and later professor of education, read more than one paper before the group.[56]

According to the extant records, no visiting scholar outside the field of history appeared before the Society from 1906 to 1920. This fact is perhaps of more significance than an account of the scholars who did appear. In 1911 Professor Joseph G. de Roulhac Hamilton from the neighboring University of North Carolina spoke on the Kirk-Holden War of Reconstruction days. Three years later John H. Latané of the Johns Hopkins Unversity read to the Society a paper on the Monroe Doctrine.[57] Although meager as evidence, the appearance of these two

March 29, 1916, for an account of Harrell's paper read before the Society. When Harrell died, May 19, 1927, he was assistant professor of history in New York University.

[55] See, for example, *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 28, 1917.

[56] See the following issues of the *Trinity Chronicle* for accounts of papers read by Mims: March 20, 1907, March 25, 1908; for the paper read by Few, see the issue for Feb. 17, 1909; for papers read by Brooks, see issues for April 28, 1909, and March 22, 1911.

[57] See *Trinity Chronicle,* May 3, 1911, for an account of Hamilton's paper, and April 22, 1914, for Latané's. See also *Who's Who in America, 1932-33,* XVII, 1376, for facts concerning the career of the latter.

historians indicated a trend toward a period of increasing specialization.

More drastic changes had paved the way for the new emphasis on contemporary affairs of Europe. The participation of the United States in the first World War interrupted the normal work of the Trinity College Historical Society. Students began to leave for training camps in the spring of 1917, and attention was centered on other things than the ordinary routine of campus activities. There was little incentive for the moment to go on with the advanced work in the study of local history or in the collection of materials for such study. Yet it should be emphasized that no year of this disturbed period passed without at least one meeting of the Society. But Boyd himself went to Plattsburg for military training in the summer of 1918. In the autumn of that year he became director of the academic work for the Student Army Training Corps, which was established at the College, and served until the Corps was disbanded after the signing of the Armistice. In April, 1919, he began his duties as editor of *The South Atlantic Quarterly,* which were to occupy much of his time for a period of more than ten years.[58] In the summer of the same year he was active in the inauguration of, and in guiding through its first term, the Trinity College Summer School.[59] His mind was never again to concentrate on local history in the same manner as in the earlier years.

Nevertheless, in January, 1919, as soon as the Student Army Training Corps had been disbanded,[60] an organization meeting was called in an effort to revive the activities of the Society. But the war years had also left an impact on the students, who now developed wider interests that were to be reflected in the future work of the Society. The most radical experiment was inaugurated at the meeting of April 12,

[58] *The South Atlantic Quarterly,* XVIII, 95-96 (April, 1919); XXXI, 3 (Jan., 1932).

[59] According to an article by Professor Holland Holton in the *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 14, 1923, Boyd, with Professor R. N. Wilson, was largely responsible for the inauguration of the summer school in 1919. Furthermore, Professor Holton wrote: "In 1920 the school had grown to the point that a regular director was elected. Dr. Boyd served in this capacity."

[60] *Trinity Chronicle,* Jan. 30, 1919.

1920, when, after the paper on "The New German Constitution" by Professor Laprade, Professor J. G. de Roulhac Hamilton as a representative of the Institute of International Education urged that the Society affiliate with this organization and thus prevent the formation of a separate group for the discussion of international relations. After deliberation the Society adopted the suggestion.[61]

The Society was never again to be devoted wholly to local history, and for the next several years after 1919 served chiefly as a forum for the discussion of contemporary European affairs. These discussions were led by members of the faculty or visiting speakers in the first years after the war, since few students were ready to offer papers. In 1920-21, on the other hand, students led four of the five meetings of which there is record. Nevertheless, in 1923 there is evidence of a decided effort to make "the students rather than the professors the participants in the program."[62] Accounts of meetings held two years later reveal that students were discussing such topics as the activities of Colonel E. M. House, the memoirs of Sir Edward Grey, and the causes of the World War.[63] The failure of the United States to adhere to the League of Nations and the general disillusionment following the war caused a waning of the interest of students in international relations, though the Carnegie Endowment for International Education tried to keep it alive by sending visiting speakers and by sponsoring intercollegiate meetings attended by student representatives. The bulk of such funds as the Society collected in those years went to pay the expenses of student representatives to these meetings.[64]

[61] *Trinity Chronicle,* April 14 and 28, 1920. This movement for a study of international relations was initiated by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on February 10, 1919, when the Institute of International Education was organized. See *Year Book of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1920,* p. 48.

[62] *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 21, 1923. See the following issues for accounts of the meetings held in 1920-21: Nov. 3, 24, Dec. 15, 1920; Feb. 16, April 27, 1921.

[63] *Trinity Chronicle,* March 11, 1925; *The Chronicle,* Dec. 9, 1925.

[64] *The Chronicle,* Feb. 9, 1927; W. K. Boyd to W. N. Keener, Durham, N. C., Feb. 4, 1927 (Correspondence in Duke University Library). Ninety-four per cent of the funds of the Society in 1923-24 was utilized for sending delegates to the International

The problem of enlisting greater student interest now confronted the leaders of the Society. Boyd was absent on leave from the campus in 1921-22,[65] and his place as president of the Society was taken by Dr. Randolph G. Adams. Active in his efforts to stimulate the interest of students in history as well as in current topics, Adams noted the lag in the appeal of international relations and co-operated with Boyd on his return in an effort to find a way to make the activities of the Society more vital. The working constitution of the Society had been lost in the fire which destroyed the Washington Duke Building in January, 1911. In the spring of the same year Boyd had appointed a committee consisting of himself, Professor Laprade, and Messrs. H. R. Hunter, R. G. Cherry, and R. M. Patterson to frame another.[66] As the organization functioned at that time, however, the want of a constitution was not felt and this committee did not report. The affiliation with the Institute of International Education in 1920 implied a change in constitution as well as emphasis. In an effort to enlist greater interest among the students, another committee was then appointed to draft a constitution. The committee did its work at a time when various clubs on the campus were busy seeking affiliation with national fraternities. The constitution as reported in February, 1923, by Culver Hagood Smith, chairman of the committee which had considered the matter, was designed to convert the Society into a closed group of students interested in the study of history, a group which would from time to time recruit its membership by electing fellow students on the basis of interest manifested in that subject. Since this constitution marked a decided change from the previous policy of open meetings held on the basis of general invitations extended to all students, members of the faculty, and even the interested public, a special effort was made to inform the students of the projected change. The new constitution was

Relations Club at Furman University in South Carolina (Report of the treasurer, John Tate Lanning, in Correspondence in Duke University Library).

[65] *Annual Catalogue of Trinity College, 1921-1922*, p. 12.

[66] *Trinity Chronicle*, March 1, 1911.

finally adopted in May, 1923, to go into effect the following September.[67]

Whether or not the Society would long have survived or flourished in this new form it is impossible to say. Other factors, however, were to cause additional changes in its organization. The student body was already becoming too large, and activities were too numerous for any one subject to make the wide appeal that history did in the earlier years of the organization. The foundation of Duke University occurred in December, 1924. Boyd was soon busy expanding the work of the department, building on the foundation to which he himself had contributed so much. Soon he was concerned with the library and other aspects of the growing University, and increasingly tended to leave a large share of the work of the Society to colleagues. By the fall of 1927 the group of new buildings on the East Campus had been completed and the department of history had grown to a point where graduate instruction was given on a substantial scale.[68] At the organization meeting in the fall of 1927, Professor Richard H. Shryock, a member of the faculty from 1925 to 1938, presided, and it was voted to restrict the membership of the Society in the future to graduate students, seniors majoring in history, members of the history department of the faculty, and others in the University community interested in the subject.[69] It happened that not many undergraduates were afterwards attracted to the meetings, and the Society tended to become a forum for graduate students and members of the staff to consider points of common interest.

Despite changes in the type of membership of the group from 1906 to 1927, the Society did creditable work during that period, attracting attention and exerting influence beyond the boundaries of the campus.

[67] *Trinity Chronicle*, Feb. 21, March 28, May 16, 1923.

[68] *Annual Catalogue of Duke University, 1927-1928*, pp. 368-379.

[69] *The Chronicle*, Oct. 19 and Nov. 9, 1927. For Professor Shryock's tenure see *Bulletin of Duke University: Catalogue Number, 1925-1926*, p. 20, and *1937-1938*, p. 35.

The Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission made complimentary references to its work in his annual reports for 1909, 1910, and 1912, calling especial attention to the activity of the Society in collecting historical materials, raising an endowment fund for its publications, and presenting excellent programs.[70] More noteworthy were inquiries from others interested in starting in their own communities societies of a similar nature. Such inquiries came from Miss Iva J. Daws of Winthrop College in South Carolina, from Professor Walter L. Fleming of Louisiana State University, and from Professor Phillip M. Hamer of the University of Tennessee.[71] One result following these requests was the establishment of the East Tennessee Historical Society.[72] This interest in the work of the Society became so widespread by 1913 that the editor of the *History Teacher's Magazine* requested Boyd to prepare a statement concerning the work of the group.[73]

[70] Clarence H. Poe (comp.), *Minutes of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the State Literary and Historical Association* (Raleigh, 1909), p. 39; see also *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 17, April 23, 1909. *Third Biennial Report of the North Carolina Historical Commission, December 1, 1908 to November 30, 1910* (Raleigh, 1910), pp. 23, 48-49, and *Proceedings of the Eleventh and Twelfth Annual Meetings of the State Literary and Historical Association* (Raleigh, 1912), p. 115.

[71] Letter of Iva J. Daws to W. K. Boyd, Dec. 14, 1907 (Correspondence in Duke University Library); Walter L. Fleming to W. K. Boyd, Feb. 29, 1908 *(ibid.)* In the light of Fleming's distinguished career this last request was especially significant; see Fletcher M. Green, "Walter Lynwood Fleming: Historian of Reconstruction," *Journal of Southern History,* II (1936), 497-521, and William C. Binkley, "The Contribution of Walter Lynwood Fleming to Southern Scholarship," *ibid.,* V (1939), 143-154. For Professor Hamer's inquiry see his letter to Boyd, April 11, 1922 (Correspondence in Duke University Library).

[72] P. M. Hamer to W. T. Laprade, Washington, D. C., Oct. 4, 1940; interview of the writer with Dr. Hamer at Washington, D. C., Sept. 4, 1940. The East Tennessee Historical Society's *Publications* have appeared regularly since their initiation in 1929. Boyd served as judge in 1933 in the contest for the "C. M. McClung Award" given for the best article to appear during any one year in the *Publications* of the East Tennessee Historical Society; and in 1936 Boyd delivered the key address to the Society on "Some Divergencies in Southern Politics and Culture." See *Publications,* No. 6 (1934), p. 129, and No. 9 (1937), p. 157.

[73] Albert E. McKinley to William K. Boyd, Nov. 6, 1913 (Correspondence in Duke University Library). This request was complied with; see William K. Boyd, "Local

The publications of the Society, however, were perhaps its most notable achievement in the period of Boyd's leadership. As has been noted, the *Historical Papers* were begun before Bassett's departure, but the series was improved materially and placed on a more substantial basis after Boyd took charge.[74] Moreover, he had aided not only in launching the publication but also in its continued appearance until his departure for Columbia University in 1900. As a member of the senior class, Boyd contributed an article to the first issue in the series, and he retained his interest in the publication throughout the remainder of his life. The prefatory note to Series XXI, published in 1937, was his last contribution and perhaps his final piece of writing on a historical subject.[75]

Bassett described the launching of the publication in a letter to H. B. Adams when the first series came from the press:

I am just sending you a copy of our "Historical Papers" which is the first heir of my historical society, and it is about that that I was going to write to you. You will see that the publication makes a pamphlet of 85 pages and, I think, is not a bad affair for a college in the South. It is true that there are a number of careless expressions in some of the pieces. That is due to the fact that the articles appeared first in *The Archive*—and the

History in the College Curriculum," *History Teacher's Magazine,* VI (June, 1915), 178-179.

[74] As an indication that Bassett's earlier interest in the publication waned, see especially the *Trinity Archive,* June, 1904, in a section without pagination called "Album of Trinity College" evidently written by Bassett himself: "Since the founding of *The South Atlantic Quarterly* it [*Historical Papers*] has not appeared, but steps have been taken to revive it as a receptacle for the work of students." See also *The Durham Recorder,* Feb. 5, 1907, for the statement that the *Historical Papers* "were discontinued on account of the establishment of the South Atlantic Quarterly."

[75] Note Boyd's first article "John S. Cairns, Ornithologist" in Series I (1897), pp. 77-82. See *Duke Alumni Register,* Jan., 1938, p. 12, for the following statement by Professor Laprade: "Perhaps the last paragraph that Professor Boyd ever wrote for publication was a prefatory note to the most recent number in that series [Series XXI of the Trinity College Historical Society *Papers*]." See p. 8 in Series XXI for the prefatory note; this series came from the press on Nov. 11, 1937, and Professor Boyd's death occurred on Jan. 19, 1938. Information regarding the date of publication was obtained from Miss Exie Duncan, of the Duke University Press, Nov. 23, 1940.

editor of that magazine did not proof read strictly. I am going to proof read for the next series myself & I hope to have better results. You may be surprised to know that the whole affair cost less than $25. I made arrangement with *The Archive,* the College magazine, by which I furnished them with historical articles on condition that I might have reprints from the articles. I then made arrangements with the printer to make 200 reprints at 25cts a page. These have been saved throughout the year. Now I bind them up as you see. When I came here I was determined to have a publication. After much consideration I hit on this plan. The College, since it has seen the work, has offered to assume the obligation of the affair to the amount of $25 for the future; so my "Papers" are to be permanent. So far as I know, this is one of but three historical publications (not including patriotic publications) in the South. It is the only one in N. C. I should like your opinion of it, for publication. If it is not favorable, I will agree not to publish it.[76]

Bassett paid especial tribute to the energy and ability of the class of 1896, which, he declared, made the publication of the *Historical Papers* possible. Under the direction of that class a high standard was set for the historical as well as other articles which appeared in the *Archive,* and it was with student representatives that Bassett bargained for reprints to be used in issuing the *Historical Papers.*[77] Contemporary

[76] The letter to Adams was dated Jan. 16, 1896, but this was obviously a slip of the pen. It should have been Jan. 16, 1897, Durham, N. C. (photostatic copy from the H. B. Adams Correspondence preserved at the Johns Hopkins University). See also Holt (ed.), *Historical Scholarship in the United States, 1876-1901: As Revealed in the Correspondence of Herbert B. Adams,* pp. 242-243. Holt published the letter under the date of "Jan. 16, 1896." The date of Series I of the *Historical Papers* of the Trinity College Historical Society is 1897. The other historical publications mentioned by Bassett as being published in the South could have been from Virginia, Mississippi, or Florida; see William P. Trent, "Notes on the Outlook for Historical Studies in the South," *Papers of the American Historical Association,* IV (Oct., 1890), 57-65. Note especially pp. 58 and 65 n. The first issue of *The Quarterly of the Texas Historical Association* appeared in July, 1897. For further information concerning the co-operation of the *Trinity Archive* in publishing the *Historical Papers,* see Series III of the latter publication on the page designating errata for the following statement: "Under the arrangement with the *Trinity Archive* by which the PAPERS are issued, it has not been possible to make all the parts of certain papers run consecutively."

[77] J. S. Bassett, "Contributions of the Archive to History," *Trinity Archive,* Dec., 1900, pp. 154-155.

opinion supported Bassett's judgment regarding the improvement of the *Archive.* The editor of the Raleigh *News and Observer,* after commenting on the general improvement to be seen in college magazines, continued:

. . . nowhere has this improvement been more marked than in North Carolina. . . . And with it has come a renaissance in the history of the State. Old records have been searched, primal causes have been sought, and the history of North Carolina is to-day being re-written with a patience, critical care and fine judgment suitable to the difficulties of the subject—and this is being done by the students in North Carolina colleges, and the results are being published in such magazines as the Trinity Archive. Indeed, the Archive is the pioneer in this work, and is now fulfilling in rich abundance the promises made for it by its friends in its early existence.[78]

This arrangement for obtaining reprints from the *Trinity Archive* remained the *modus operandi* for issuing *An Annual Publication of the Historical Papers,* as the publication was first known, until the appearance of Series VIII for the years 1908 and 1909.[79] Perhaps this change from reliance upon the *Trinity Archive* was due to the length of the article entitled "History of the Difficulties of the Pastorate of the Front Street Methodist Church, Wilmington, N. C. for the Year 1865" by L. S. Burkhead, the Society never before having ventured

[78] See issue for Oct. 18, 1896. The editor concluded by commenting on articles which were printed in the first issue of the *Historical Papers.*

[79] Note in the list of articles appearing in the *Historical Papers,* at the end of this section, that each early one is a reprint from the *Trinity Archive.* In the case of Series VIII the following articles appeared in both the *Historical Papers* and the *Trinity Archive:* (1) W. K. Boyd (ed.), "An Unpublished Letter of J. Fenimore Cooper," *Historical Papers,* pp. 1-2, and *Trinity Archive,* May-June, 1909, pp. 366-367; (2) W. K. Boyd (ed.), "Letters of Nathaniel Macon to Judge Charles Tait," *Historical Papers,* pp. 3-5, and *Trinity Archive,* May-June, 1909, pp. 368-370; (3) W. A. Bryan, "Some Social Traits of the Rich Square Quakers, With New Garden Documents," *Historical Papers,* pp. 6-14, and *Trinity Archive,* May-June, 1909, pp. 371-379; (4) W. K. Boyd (ed.), "Rev. Brantley York on Early Days in Randolph County and Union Institute," *Historical Papers,* pp. 15-34, and *Trinity Archive,* May-June, 1909, pp. 380-399. But one other long article by L. S. Burkhead, "History of the Difficulties of the Pastorate of the Front Street Methodist Church, Wilmington, N. C., for the Year 1865," while appearing in the *Historical Papers,* pp. 35-118, did not appear in the *Trinity Archive.*

to publish a complete series which exceeded greatly the length of this one article. For the first thirteen years of its existence the *Historical Papers* were issued in co-operation with the editor of the campus magazine. This early makeshift method, while ingenious and praiseworthy as a beginning, presented certain difficulties, especially when a study of any length was to be published or when the student editor happened to prefer other material. The lever ultimately used by Boyd for obtaining more generous support from the College was the premise that the library could be enlarged at less expense by means of exchanges for the *Historical Papers* than by outright purchases.

The appearance of the first issue of the *Historical Papers* was regarded at that time as a noteworthy event. In anticipation of its appearance, the trustees of Trinity College wrote into their report that "The Historical Society will publish annually a volume in the interest of North Carolina history. This will be the only publication of its kind in the State."[80] Upon its appearance, generous praise from the *Philadelphia Press* offered encouragement to members of the Society:

Trinity College, Durham, N. C., has for some time come to be known to those watchful of the course of education in the South as a place in which rapid advance is being made both in standards and methods. The Historical Society of the college has begun the annual publication of historical papers, of which the first series has just appeared. It consists of a group of studies prepared by students of the college. These are, as such papers generally are, deficient at various points, but it is of more importance that they indicate careful, close research in subjects relating to the State, and form the basis and beginning of sound historical investigation. The period succeeding the war has been singularly neglected by historical students in this country. This series has papers on "The Origin and Development of the Ku Klux Klan," by Sanders Dent; "A Ku Klux Raid and What Came of it," by W. H. Pegram, and "Fort Hamby, on the Yadkin," by Robert

[80] An undated broadside: "Report of Board of Visitors" of Trinity College signed by O. W. Carr, Dred Peacock, and J. H. Southgate (Trinity College papers in Duke University Library).

L. Flowers, which are important contributions to the history of the period. The last in particular records one of the few instances in which there occurred in the South, after the war, something like brigandage. It speaks volumes for the law-abiding character of Southern communities as a whole, that in scarcely an instance in the South did this take place, though in most cases a widespread war was followed by numerous occurrences of this character.

The Philadelphia paper then gave an incorrect listing of the other articles which appeared in this first issue of the *Historical Papers* and concluded with an admonition to Southern colleges to publish more if they would have their good works known.[81] Mild rejoicing over this sign of intellectual progress in the South also appeared in *The Nation,* where Professor Flowers was again especially commended for his "striking picture of local demoralization on the break-up of the Confederate army in 1865."[82]

The cordial reception of the *Historical Papers* was no doubt a factor in encouraging and continuing the spirit of co-operation between the campus magazine and the Society. One evidence of this co-operation appeared just prior to the first issue of the *Historical Papers,* when Luther Montrose Carlton read an excellent paper before the Society on "The Assassination of John Walters Stephens." In the campus newspaper, the final word of praise for Carlton's performance was merely: "The paper will be published in the Trinity Archive."[83] When the editor of the *Archive* called attention to the appearance of the third annual issue of the *Historical Papers,* he wrote: "It continues to grow both as to the quantity and the value of its material. The papers of which it consists are interesting, well written and are valuable contributions to the field of history."[84] Bassett himself wrote that the Society

[81] *Philadelphia Press,* Feb. 27, 1897. See *Christian Educator,* March, 1897, for a corrected version of the account in the *Philadelphia Press.*

[82] LXV (Sept. 23, 1897), 241. Note also the quotation of this article in the *Christian Educator,* Sept., 1897.

[83] *Christian Educator,* Dec., 1896. See also *Trinity Archive,* Jan., 1897, pp. 167-178; Series II of the *Historical Papers,* pp. 1-12.

[84] *Trinity Archive,* March, 1899, p. 437.

had "done much to stimulate historical writing." This fact, he said, could be "seen from the large number of articles on history which have appeared from time to time in the ARCHIVE."[85] On certain occasions, such as the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Society, or when the *Archive* was filled with historical articles just prior to the appearance of a new issue of the *Historical Papers,* the editor of the magazine seldom failed to write cheerfully of surrendering space to the Trinity College Historical Society.[86] Furthermore, the editorial staff of the college magazine offered a prize for "the best historical paper" contributed to the *Archive.*[87] Apparently there was no friction between the magazine and the Society, although such might easily have been the case had the latter group demanded too much.

Creditable to both as was this co-operation between the Society and the magazine, the success of the *Historical Papers* suggested the need of a publication fund for the Society. In an inspiring address on October 13, 1904, Bassett made a plea to the Society for the establishment of such a fund, claiming that no historical society could be termed alive if it failed to bring the truth which it was able to discover "to the attention of the world." A reputable publication, he stated, would stimulate the writing of history. Proceeding to the practical, he set $2,000 as a goal, which, if "well invested would give . . . the desired results" for the time being. He recommended that additions be made each year, although he expressed a fear that the required amount might not be obtained until all present had "been gathered to the dust of . . . [their] fathers."[88] Meanwhile, the single phrase in the original constitution relative to publications was expanded into Article IV:

[85] *Trinity Archive,* June, 1904, in a section called the "Album of Trinity College," without pagination.

[86] *Trinity Archive,* March, 1902, p. 411-412; *Trinity Chronicle,* Feb. 6, 1906; *Trinity Archive,* Feb., 1907, pp. 198-199, and Feb., 1908, p. 205. (Compare the February, 1908, issue with Series VI of the *Historical Papers.*)

[87] Minutes, p. 69.

[88] *Trinity Archive,* Nov., 1904, pp. 69-70.

Section 1. The Society shall create and build up a Publication Fund the interest on which shall be used for no other purpose than historical publication. This fund shall be invested under the supervision of the authorities of Trinity College. It shall be allowed to accumulate until such time as the Society shall deem proper for beginning a publication.

Section 2. All funds received from the membership fees of non-resident members shall go to the publication fund, and at least half of the amount received from the membership fees of resident members shall go to the said publication fund.

Section 3. Any person who contributes as much as ten dollars at one time shall be made a life-member of the Society with no further dues to pay.

Section 4. The Society shall appoint a responsible person who shall act as agent for the Publication Fund.

President Kilgo was designated to receive contributions, and the "new undertaking" was under way.[89]

The desired publication fund was not secured while Bassett remained at Trinity College. In fact, there seems to be no evidence until five years later that the plans were carried any further toward realization. In 1909, however, the Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission reported that two hundred dollars had been contributed toward the projected publication fund. One year later the same official reported that a fund of one thousand dollars had been secured and that a new series of monographs had been started as a supplement to the *Historical Papers*. Apparently through the influence of Boyd and Professor Eugene C. Brooks, the College itself was induced to underwrite the venture. This new series was called the *John Lawson Monographs*.[90]

[89] *Trinity Archive*, Nov., 1904, pp. 106-107; see also *Annual Publication of Historical Papers* of Trinity College Historical Society, Series VI (1906), p. 11.

[90] Poe (comp.), *Minutes of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the State Literary and Historical Association*, p. 39; *Third Biennial Report of the North Carolina Historical Commission from December 1, 1908 to November 30, 1910* (Raleigh, 1910), p. 49. Note *Trinity Chronicle*, Oct. 13, 1909, for an account of Benefactor's Day, when various members of the Society gave a total of $17.00 to the publication fund. Bassett wrote Boyd on January 8, 1911, as follows: "And to get the publication fund guaranteed is

The *John Lawson Monographs,* named for the early explorer and first historian of North Carolina, were not intended to supplant the *Historical Papers* but rather to supplement that publication because of the "growth of the work and collections of the organization."[91] With the appearance of the next series of the *Historical Papers* in 1912, the early title, *An Annual Publication of Historical Papers,* was dropped for the shorter title. Bassett had allowed the first title to become a misnomer; and, after the renewal of publication in 1905, according to Boyd, it was "impossible for the *Papers* to appear annually. One reason for this . . . [was] the foundation of the John Lawson Monographs by the Historical Society in 1910."[92] The Society needed more space for the publication of the rapidly accumulating collection of source materials which deserved to be made available for scholars. It was planned to follow the *Autobiography of Brantley York,* which constituted the first volume of the *John Lawson Monographs,* by the *Memoirs of Governor W. W. Holden* in 1911. Later, a manuscript by Dr. E. W. Caruthers, "Evils of American Slavery," was to be published. The second volume was issued according to plan, but Caruthers's work is still in manuscript. *Military Reminiscences of Gen. Wm. R. Boggs, C. S. A.,* which appeared in 1913, was the third and last volume of the series. The *John Lawson Monographs* were never resumed after the first World War.

Although there were interruptions due to the participation of the

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a stroke of genius. It arouses my imagination. I take off my hat to you and Brooks." Written from Northampton, Mass. (Correspondence in Duke University Library). This speculation concerning the possible guarantee of $1000 toward the publication fund by the College is given additional weight by the fact that Professor Brooks contributed the sketch of Brantley York's life in Volume I of the *John Lawson Monographs.* See pp. ix-xv. According to information obtained from Professor William T. Laprade, Boyd secured a guarantee of publication funds by convincing the president of the College that more than compensatory value would accrue to the College library from a system of exchanges.

[91] William K. Boyd (ed.), *The Autobiography of Brantley York* in the *John Lawson Monographs* of the Trinity College Historical Society (Durham, 1910), p. vii.

[92] *Historical Papers,* Series IX, p. 3.

United States in the War and for other reasons, the *Historical Papers* continued to appear at intervals. The first gap, in 1908, after Boyd became responsible for the publication was not really a lapse in annual publication but a combination of two series in one (VIII, 1909). With the inauguration of the *John Lawson Monographs* in 1910 it was planned to issue the two publications in alternate years. In fact, the second volume of the *John Lawson Monographs* followed in 1911; Series IX of the *Historical Papers* appeared in 1912; and the third and final volume of the *John Lawson Monographs* was published in 1913. The *Historical Papers* appeared for the next three years, but were interrupted for two years by the War. Series XIII appeared in 1919. For some time following the appearance of Series XIII both Boyd and the students were occupied with other matters, but in 1922 there appeared the only series (XIV) to be published between 1919 and the foundation of Duke University. Beginning in 1925 the *Historical Papers* were published regularly under the auspices of the Duke University Press, until another interruption from 1930 to 1936, due both to the depression and to the fact that Boyd served in those years as Director of Libraries and had less time for historical work. Since 1936, with the exception of one year, the *Papers* have appeared annually.

An examination of the contents of the *Historical Papers* reveals a gradual trend toward more substantial studies and the use of more valuable source materials. In the first period of the publication, Series I to Series VII (1897-1907), each issue generally contained several short articles concerning local incidents. One half of these articles were by students, 30 per cent by faculty members, and the remainder by outsiders. Occasionally an article was based on a single source such as a diary. In some instances a genuine study appeared; Boyd's study of William W. Holden, made while a member of the senior class, was perhaps the best work by a student of this period. Only four documentary items appeared, these being edited by Bassett and by Boyd after the latter had virtually completed his graduate work at Columbia

University. Every article, except the orations delivered at civic celebrations, was concerned with the history of North Carolina. This early period was also coincident with the makeshift method of publishing by reprinting from the *Archive*.

The succeeding period under Boyd's guidance is characterized by fewer and longer articles in every issue. In this period, from 1908 through 1922 (Series VIII-Series XIV), more source material was published, one third of the total number of items being edited material. Practically all of this material was prepared by Boyd. Articles by students again amounted to almost 50 per cent of the total (13 out of 27). Had it not been for the inclusion of the papers of the Historical Society of the North Carolina Methodist Conference in Series IX, the proportion of articles by students would have been even higher. Again, all articles pertained to the history of North Carolina save one short group of unpublished letters of James Fenimore Cooper. Noteworthy contributions during this period were John W. Carr's "The Manhood Suffrage Movement in North Carolina," Joseph Kelly Turner's "Slavery in Edgecombe County," a work ultimately incorporated in a complete history of that county, Isaac Samuel Harrell's "Gates County to 1860," and Luther Lafayette Gobbel's "Militia of North Carolina in Colonial and Revolutionary Times."[93] It was during this period also that the first contribution was made by a woman as a member of the Society, Adelaide Avery Lyons.[94] The *Historical Papers*

[93] Professor Carr's paper was published in Series XI (1915), pp. 47-78. Professor Carr, now a member of the education department of Duke University, stated to the writer on December 7, 1940, that he spent two weeks doing research for this paper in the office of the North Carolina State Historical Commission. He stated further that Boyd was remarkable for his ability to inspire students and that he often obtained work of high calibre from undergraduate students. Turner's article appeared in Series XII (1916), pp. 5-36; Harrell's was published in the same series, pp. 56-106. Gobbel's article was published in Series XIII (1919), pp. 35-61. Gobbel, now president of Greensboro College, later became the author of *Church-State Relationships in Education in North Carolina since 1776* (Durham, 1938), a study which was an outgrowth of his connection with the Trinity College Historical Society.

[94] "Religious Defense of Slavery in the North," Series XIII (1919), pp. 5-34. An earlier contribution by a woman, Juliana Peele, "Rich Square Meeting," Series VI (1906),

of this period constitute a surprising achievement for a small group of undergraduates in a struggling denominational college.

The publications of the Society in this period continued to receive notice. *The Memoirs of W. W. Holden* in the *John Lawson Monographs* had perhaps the most cordial reception of any publication issued from 1908 to 1922. A reviewer in the *American Historical Review* concluded with the following tribute to the judgment of Boyd, the editor of the *Memoirs:* "Taken as a whole the memoirs aid materially toward an understanding of Holden's part in reconstruction in North Carolina, and contribute something toward a general view of the period."[95] Five years later Series XII of the *Historical Papers* was greeted by a notice written by Professor Walter Clinton Jackson of the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina for the Raleigh *News and Observer,* a notice especially remarkable for its sympathy and understanding. This review, which appeared December 17, 1916, was at once, a tribute to Boyd, an evaluation of the *Historical Papers,* and a sympathetic notice of Series XII.

In 1897 the Trinity College Historical Society began the publication of a series of historical papers. Since that time few publications have had so marked an influence upon the literature of North Carolina History. Series XII of these papers is just from the press and constitutes a unique number.

Dr. W. K. Boyd, Professor of History in Trinity College, has been for a number of years the guiding spirit in the work of the society. North Carolina history has in Dr. Boyd one of its wisest, sanest and most useful friends. As a productive scholar and as an inspiring teacher he has made a high place for himself among North Carolina historians. During the past few years, many valuable and interesting and scholarly papers have appeared above his name, and he is only at the beginning of his work.

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pp. 93-98, was an article which had previously appeared in the *Roanoke Chowan Times.* It was published in the *Historical Papers* "with a few changes and notes furnished by Mr. W. A. Bryan as the introduction to a more comprehensive study of the records of the Friends in Northampton County." See Series VI, p. 93 n.

[95] XVII, 415-416 (Jan., 1912).

But it is as a teacher as well as a writer that he commands a high place among his fellows. For years he has sent from the halls of Trinity a group of men who not only possess scholarly training and wide information, but are inspired with a deep and intelligent and abiding interest in the great problems of life, and especially the life of their own region.

The reviewer continued by commenting on Boyd's theory of the importance of local history before summarizing and commending the three studies contained in Series XII.[96]

During the third phase of the publications of the Society, 1925-41, nine series of the *Historical Papers* appeared, XVIII and XIX being a double number. Series XXII, issued in 1938, was a memorial to Professor Boyd, who died in January of that year. With the exception of this series and that issued in 1925, which contained two short monographs, each one of the series in this period was devoted entirely to a single project. All of the material published related chiefly to the history of the South. Two issues were documentary. The double series, XVIII and XIX, was devoted to the letters of Dr. Richard D. Arnold of Savannah, Georgia, as collected and edited by Profesor Richard H. Shryock, while a member of the Society. In Series XXI, the last to appear in Boyd's lifetime, was a document edited at Boyd's request by Professor James W. Patton of Converse College. The other series were devoted to historical monographs prepared in every case except two by writers who were members of the Society.[97]

[96] Professor Jackson's review was reprinted in the *Trinity Chronicle,* Dec. 21, 1916.

[97] Series XV (1925) contained two studies: (1) James Joseph Farris, "The Lowrie Gang: an Episode in the History of Robeson County, N. C., 1864-1874," pp. 55-93, the work of a student member of the Society in 1923 (see p. 55 n.); (2) Penelope McDuffie, "Chapters in the Life of Willie Person Mangum," pp. 5-54. (Note especially p. 5.)

Series XVIII and XIX (a double series) and Series XXI were devoted to documentary items: (1) Richard H. Shryock, "Letters of Richard D. Arnold, M.D., 1808-1876," Series XVIII and XIX (1929) and (2) James W. Patton, "Minutes of the Proceedings of the Greenville Ladies' Association in Aid of the Volunteers of the Confederate Army," Series XXI (1937). Note especially p. 8. See the *North Carolina Historical Review,* XV (Oct., 1938), pp. 416-418, for a cordial review of Professor Patton's editing by Professor

Contributions to the *Historical Papers* were stimulated by prizes offered for essays of a superior type. The first such prize was offered in 1898 for the best "historical paper" contributed to the *Archive*.[98] In the fall of 1915, an anonymous "friend of the Society" offered "a prize of twenty-five dollars in cash for the best essay by an undergraduate on any phase of southern history." At the first meeting of the year, a committee was appointed to draft rules for the contest and to express the appreciation of the Society for the offer. The report of the committee resulted in a few simple regulations to be observed by contestants:

The subject of the essays submitted in the competition shall be approved by the department of history. Preference will be given to essays which make a contribution to existing knowledge of Southern history.

Essays must be submitted by May 1, must contain at least 5,000 words, must be typewritten, and must be accompanied by an introductory outline and a bibliography of the authorities used. Important statements of fact must be supported by footnotes.[99]

Charles W. Ramsdell and the *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, XIV (Sept., 1930), pp. 262-263, for a favorable review of Professor Shryock's work.

The remaining series were devoted to historical monographs: (1) John G. Van Deusen, "The Ante-Bellum Southern Commercial Conventions," Series XVI (1926). Note especially p. 4. (2) Bryce Roswell Holt, "The Supreme Court of North Carolina and Slavery," Series XVII (1927); this study was a master's thesis presented in 1924. (See p. 4.) (3) Elizabeth Huey Davidson, "The Establishment of the English Church in Continental American Colonies," Series XX (1936). Dr. Davidson's work was the outgrowth of an "essay initiated in the English history seminar of Professor Laprade." (See p. 8.) (4) William A. Mabry, "The Negro in North Carolina Politics since the Reconstruction," Series XXIII (1940). Dr. Mabry, who received the A.B. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke University, served as an instructor in the history department from 1933 until June 30, 1939. (See *Bulletin of Duke University: Catalogue Number, 1933-1934*, p. 20 and *1938-1939*, p. 32.) (5) Joseph Clarke Robert, "The Road from Monticello: A Study of the Virginia Slavery Debate of 1832," Series XXIV (1941). Dr. Robert received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Duke University, and since 1937-38 has been assistant professor of history in the same institution. See *Bulletin of Duke University: Catalogue Number, 1937-1938*, p. 34.

[98] Minutes, p. 69.

[99] The announcement appeared first in the *Trinity Chronicle* Sept. 29, 1915. The rules are taken from *Annual Catalogue of Trinity College, 1915-1916*, pp. 180-181.

In October, 1916, "Dr. Boyd urged every member of the Society to come out for this prize in order that interest might be stimulated by keen competition."[100] Apparently the prize was awarded only four times: to Simeon Alexander Delap in 1918, to Eugene Charles Craft in 1919, to Clarence DeWitt Douglass in 1920, and to James Joseph Farris in 1923. The studies submitted by three of these successful contestants were later published in the *Historical Papers*.[101] Since the prize was intended for undergraduates, it was not easy to administer after the foundation of the University and was therefore permitted to lapse.

The *Historical Papers* were important not only for the training given to students and for the light thrown on hitherto unexplored subjects but also for a certain practical benefit accruing to the Library. Books were obtained by exchanging with other institutions. A letter from Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, to William Arnold Bryan, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society, furnishes one of the earliest records concerning the value of the publication for this purpose: "We have just forwarded to you by mail, the three volumes of Virginia laws mentioned in our letter of April 23rd., and have charged $6.00 to the priced exchange account of Trinity College Historical Society."[102] Similar statements came from the University of Pennsylvania in 1907. Exchanges were also made between the Society and

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They continued to appear in the annual catalogues until 1926-27. Announcements of the prize also continued to appear. See also *Trinity Chronicle*, Oct. 27, 1915. The anonymous donor was the late Clinton W. Toms, President of Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company and long a member of the Board of Trustees of Trinity College and Duke University. (Information from Professor W. T. Laprade.)

[100] *Trinity Chronicle*, Oct. 4, 1916.

[101] *Annual Catalogue of Trinity College, 1918-1919*, p. 211; *1919-1920*, p. 218; *1920-1921*, p. 226; *1923-1924*, p. 268. See also the following items in the *Historical Papers:* Clarence D. Douglass, "Conscription and the Writ of Habeas Corpus in North Carolina During the Civil War," Series XIV, pp. 5-39, espec. p. 5 n.; Simeon A. Delap, "The Populist Party in North Carolina," Series XIV, pp. 40-74, espec. p. 40 n.; James J. Farris, "The Lowrie Gang," Series XV, pp. 55-93, espec. p. 55 n.

[102] Washington, D. C., July 2, 1907 (Correspondence in Duke University Library).

such institutions as the American Antiquarian Society, the New York State Library, Vanderbilt University, the South Carolina Historical Society, Harvard University, the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Virginia State Library, and numerous other institutions.[103] According to figures compiled from the College catalogues, more than eight hundred volumes were added to the library of Trinity College and Duke University by the Society from 1907 until 1927, an average of forty-four volumes per year. This number, although unimpressive today, was of considerable importance to the library at the time. Moreover, many gaps were filled in serial publications and many serials were started, a task which might have become more difficult if long delayed. It is extremely doubtful whether all such exchanges were listed in the catalogues as coming from the Trinity College Historical Society; exchanges seem to have been listed under different donors without the knowledge that the Society had served as intermediary. In February, 1911, "valuable donations and exchanges" were presented to the Society, and in November, 1912, the President announced "the receipt by the Society of twenty-four volumes of historical publications which came through other organizations in exchange for the latest issues." Several exchanges were reported "by the President of the Society in 1916."[104] The *Historical Papers* from the standpoint of formal accounting thus doubtless showed a profit.

In these years of his active career Boyd was also interested in other projects for the publication of historical writings. Following Bassett's example, he co-operated with the Historical Society of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Series IX of the *Historical Papers* was devoted entirely to contributions

[103] These are representative examples taken from correspondence in Duke University Library.

[104] For the receipts of exchanges by the Society in 1911, 1912, and 1916, see the following respective issues of the *Trinity Chronicle,* March 1, 1911; Nov. 27, 1912; March 29, 1916; note also *Trinity Chronicle,* Oct. 13, 1909, for an account of Benefactor's Day, when the Trinity College Historical Society announced the accession of one hundred and three volumes and numerous manuscripts for the year 1908-1909.

from members of that Society; and, in 1925, Boyd served as editor of the last publication of this Society. It was issued as an independent item.[105] Shortly after his return to the campus as Bassett's successor, Boyd expressed an ambition to expand the *Historical Papers* into a "historical journal."[106] Although he did not realize his ambition, he had an influential part in starting the *North Carolina Historical Review*. This quarterly, the first number of which appeared in January, 1924, has served since that time as a medium for the publication of papers and other materials concerning the history of North Carolina. The movement to found this review was initiated by Boyd when he was president of the North Carolina State Literary and Historical Association in 1921-22; he had an active share in its promotion until it met with success.[107]

[105] *Historical Papers of the North Carolina Conference Historical Society and the Western North Carolina Conference Historical Society* (Greensboro, 1925), p. 2.

[106] *The Durham Recorder*, Feb. 5, 1907.

[107] *Proceedings of the Twenty-second Annual Session of the State Literary and Historical Association of North Carolina, Raleigh, December 7-8, 1922* (Raleigh, 1923), p. 4. The idea of a quarterly review for the Association was advanced at a meeting of the executive committee of the Association. This information was made available through the kindness of Dr. Charles C. Crittenden, Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission, who allowed the writer to examine the minutes of the meetings of the executive committee as filed in his office; the specific items are dated June 8 and September 20, 1922. A detailed plan for launching the review was prepared by Boyd, and a copy is filed among the minutes of the State Literary and Historical Association in the office of the Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission. It is dated October 1, 1922. A copy of the same plan dated October, 1922, also exists in correspondence in Duke University Library. This last-mentioned copy had evidently been sent to Professor Joseph G. de Roulhac Hamilton, who had written across the first page: "This seems O. K. J G de R H." Certain other papers in the office of the Secretary of the North Carolina Historical Commission show that Boyd was the chief influence in launching the review: carbon copy of a letter from [R. B. House] to Boyd, Oct. 14, 1922; Boyd to [D. H.] Hill, Oct. 1, 1922; carbon copy of a letter from R. B. House to Miss Adelaide Fries, Nov. 28, 1923; Miss Adelaide Fries to [R. B.] House, Nov. 30, 1923; [R. B.] House to Miss Adelaide Fries, Nov. 28, 1923. Mr. House had been connected with the Historical Commission in one way or another since 1919. See *Eleventh Biennial Report of the North Carolina Historical Commission* (Raleigh, 1927), p. 5. See *Tenth Biennial Report of the North Carolina Historical Commission, December 1, 1922 to November 30, 1924* (Raleigh, 1925), p. 8, for a statement that the circulation of the *Review* had reached approximately one thousand copies by the end of the year in which it was founded.

Boyd's work with the publications of the Society was undoubtedly responsible to a large extent for his interest in launching the *North Carolina Historical Review*. In founding the Society, Weeks had hoped that it might become an important factor in the intellectual life of North Carolina. Near the end of his life, in 1916, he expressed his gratitude to Boyd for describing the publications of the Society as the "intellectual grandchildren" of the founder of the organization. In addition, Weeks wrote to Boyd: "I am much interested in what you say about the Trinity College Historical Society. . . . I am glad to learn that it is not only recognized but is marked for its efficiency. It is wonderful how such things grow."[108] It may be concluded from Weeks's interest in the publication and Boyd's enthusiastic report on the conditions of the Society that the founder of the organization must have felt well satisfied with its progress. And well he might. The Society was an active influence in numerous worth-while movements. By the efforts of its leaders and members, it served not only as the agency for gathering an important collection of source materials but as a medium for issuing publications, for enlarging the library and for inspiring intellectual advancement in other areas of the South.

[108] Washington, D. C., Jan. 30, 1916 (Correspondence in Duke University Library).

Appendices

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE TRINITY COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ader, Olin Peter
*Aikins, H. Austin
Armfield, Frank
Avery, Adolphus Calhoun, Jr.
Avery, Isaac Erwin
Baldwin, Jesse Armon
Ball, James Henry
*Bandy, James M.
Barber, Samuel Turner
Bradley, Rufus
Brooks, Eugene Clyde
Brown, Fabius P.
Bynum, Ernest Taylor
Carpenter, Kinchen Pinckney
Carr, James Marvin
Cheatham, Charles Hamlin
Cook, J. H.
Craven, Henry Bernard
Crawford, Robert Baker
Crowell, James Halleck
*Crowell, John Franklin
Davis, Frank Band
Durham, Plato Tracy
Durham, Stonewall Jackson
Erwin, John Thomas
Finch, William Atlas
Fitzgerald, John Hampton
Flowers, William Washington
Fox, Ernest Wyatt
Gibbons, Henry Elbert
Gill, William Francis
Hartsell, Luther Thompson
*Hinde, B. C.
McDowell, Francis Cicero
McMinn, John William
Mauney, Charles J.
Myrick, Robert Algernon
*Nicholson, Blake Baker
Price, James H.
Sasser, Wiley Dewey
Scarborough, William Branson
Separk, Joseph Henry
Sessoms, William Troy
Shinn, James Franklin
Smoot, Thomas Arthur
Stewart, Benjamin Franklin
Stewart, Plummer
Troy, Thaddeus Simms
Turner, Charles Edward
Tuttle, Robert Gregory
*Weeks, Stephen Beauregard
Willis, Robert Henry
Woodward, John Lisbon

* Members of the faculty. This list of charter members is taken from Minutes of the Trinity College Historical Society, 1892-1901, pp. 1-3. Ten years after the formation

PARTIAL LIST OF OFFICERS OF THE TRINITY COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1891-1941

1891-1892—President: Stonewall Jackson Durham
Vice-President: Ernest Taylor Bynum
Recording Secretary and Treasurer: Isaac Erwin Avery
Corresponding Secretary: Stephen Beauregard Weeks
Librarian: Francis Cicero McDowell

1892-1893—President: Jesse Armon Baldwin
Vice-President: William Washington Flowers
Recording Secretary and Treasurer: Luther Thompson Hartsell
Corresponding Secretary: Stephen Beauregard Weeks
Librarian: Francis Cicero McDowell

1893-1894—President: Robert Lee Flowers
Vice-President: Luther Thompson Hartsell
Recording Secretary: William Francis Gill
Corresponding Secretary: Ernest Taylor Bynum
Librarian: [no record]

1894-1895—President: John Spencer Bassett
Vice-President: Edwin Mims
Recording Secretary: Stephen Sanders Dent
Corresponding Secretary: Robert Baker Crawford
Librarian: James Lee Bost

1895-1896—President: John Spencer Bassett
Vice-Presidents: John Franklin Bivins
Fred Soule Aldridge
Bruce Ryburn Payne
Secretary and Treasurer: Paul Vernon Anderson
Corresponding Secretary: John Mctyeire Flowers
Librarian: Samuel Walter Sparger

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of the Society Professor Robert L. Flowers was considered a charter member. See *Trinity Archive*, March, 1902, p. 360, and *Durham Morning Herald*, Feb. 23, 1902. His name was not actually listed among the charter members, although he was active in organizing the Society. The following notation appears in the records of the fourth meeting of the Trinity College Historical Society: "It was moved and carried that the names of R. L. Flowers, T. T. James, and Thos. Hoyle be added to the list of membership" (Minutes of Trinity College Historical Society, 1892-1901, p. 13).

1896-1897—President: John Spencer Bassett
Vice-President: Charles Clinton Weaver
Secretary and Treasurer: Paul Vernon Anderson
Corresponding Secretary: William Kenneth Boyd
Librarian: Stephen Sanders Dent

1897-1898—President: John Spencer Bassett
Vice-President: William Kenneth Boyd
Secretary and Treasurer: John Council Wooten
Librarian: Leonidas Wakefield Crawford

1898-1899—President: William Kenneth Boyd
Vice-President: John Spencer Bassett
Secretary and Treasurer: Frank Thomas Willis
Librarian: John Edward Pegram

1899-1900—President: William Kenneth Boyd
Vice-President: Edwin Mims
Secretary and Treasurer: C. A. Woodward
Librarian: John Edward Pegram

1900-1901—President: John Spencer Bassett
Vice-President: John Raymond Cowan
Corresponding Secretary: Joseph Penn Breedlove
Recording Secretary and Treasurer: Edwin Search Yarborough
Librarian: William Armistead Bivins

1901-1902—President: William Kenneth Boyd
Vice-President: James Arthur Best
Secretary and Treasurer: Edwin Search Yarborough
Corresponding Secretary: William Armistead Bivins
Librarian: John Spencer Bassett

1902-1903—President: John Spencer Bassett
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